



# First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover

*Small enough to know you, big enough to care!*

51 West Blackwell Street, Dover, New Jersey 07801

[www.fmpcdover.org](http://www.fmpcdover.org)

(973) 366-0216

---

January 15, 2023—3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

---

## -A TIME TO GATHER-

**Preparation for Worship, Including Prelude** - Rachel Persenaire

***Please be still and prepare your hearts to worship God...***

**Call to Worship:**

- Rachel Persenaire

One: "And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

All: **And a voice from heaven said: This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."**

Matthew:3:16-17

**Praise Song:**

- Rachel Persenaire

"Blest are They" (Verse 1 and Chorus only)

- Haas/Joncas

## -A TIME FOR GRACE-

### ***Call to Confession:***

- Ed Dorsey

One: Jesus has called each of us to live a life of service to others. His life was one of service as evidenced by his teachings, good deeds and miracles. Jesus wants us to follow in his footsteps, but we are afraid to do so.

All: Jesus, please help us to overcome our fear of reaching out to others and aiding them in their daily lives. We are afraid of “becoming involved” because we fear that may require a commitment on our part, and we live in a world where commitment is frowned upon. Amen

### ***Assurance of Forgiveness:***

- Ed Dorsey

One: Out of the depths of God’s eternal love for us, God hears our prayers, forgives our sins, and sets us free to live and work for his glory.

All: We are loved! We are forgiven! We are free! Thanks be to God!

### ***\*A Disciple’s Response No. 592:***

- Thomas Ken, 1693, 1709

#### **“Doxology”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### ***\*Affirmation of Faith:***

“The Apostles’ Creed” (traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### ***\*Celebrating the Peace Jesus Came to Bring:***

- Ed Dorsey

One: The peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Remaining in the place where you now stand,  
please greet one another and proclaim God's peace,  
continuing this practice with all you meet or speak to  
this coming week.

- Written by Alan R. Schaefer, 2021.

## -A TIME FOR INSPIRATION-

### **Children's Message**

- Megan Berg

### **Sung Prayer for Illumination:**

- Rachel Persenaire

Jesus, name above all names  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

- © 1974, 1978 by MARANATHA MUSIC. All rights reserved.

Used with the permission granted under Christian Copyright Licensing Inc. License 970294  
THE HYMNAL FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION, No. 112.

### **The Lesson:** (Repeat from last week)

- Megan Berg

*Today's lesson is taken from  
the Gospel According to Matthew,  
chapter 3, verses 13 thru 17.*

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to "the Church..."**

- Revelation 2:7

<sup>13</sup> **Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan,  
to be baptized by him.**

<sup>14</sup> **John would have prevented him, saying,  
"I need to be baptized by you,  
and do you come to me?"**

<sup>15</sup> **But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now;  
for it is proper for us in this way  
to fulfill all righteousness."  
Then he consented.**

<sup>16</sup> **And when Jesus had been baptized,  
just as he came up from the water,  
suddenly the heavens were opened to him  
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove**

*and alighting on him.*

<sup>17</sup> *And a voice from heaven said,  
“This is my Son, the Beloved,  
with whom I am well pleased.”*

– NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION Bible (a Translation),

© 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

All rights reserved. Used with permission.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***Meditation:*** “Commencement” - Ed Dorsey

Text: Matthew 3: <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

## -WE CELEBRATE GOD’S GLORY-

***Call For The Offering:*** - Ed Dorsey

***Prayer of Dedication:*** - Ed Dorsey

***Choir Offertory:*** - Rachel Persenaire

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” - Chisholm/Runyan

***Joys and Concerns*** - Megan Berg

***Prayers of & for the People, & Lord’s Prayer...*** - Ed Dorsey

*...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread,  
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*

*Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever. Amen.*

## -WE GOD’S “GOOD NEWS” TO THE WORLD-

**\*Hymn of Parting No. 72:**

“When Jesus Came to Jordan” - Frederik August Mehrrens

**\*Benediction:**

- Ed Dorsey

May the road rise up and meet you

May the wind always be at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

and the rains fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again

May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen

---

**Special Note from Pastor Alan: I wish to thank all the members of the congregation for their remembrance and celebration of my one day early 75<sup>th</sup> birthday last Sunday. Your wonderful comments and the ice cream cake greatly brightened my day. THANK YOU!**

**THE NEXT LORD’S DAY CELEBRATION  
OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

***FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS,  
IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP OUR NATURAL GAS BILL DOWN  
DURING THE COLDER MONTHS,  
OUR WORSHIP SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CHAPEL  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
PLEASE ENTER THE BUILDING USING THE EAST TOWER DOORS.  
THE LIFT IN THE WEST CAR PORT WILL NOT BE OPERATIONAL  
DURING THIS TIME, BUT THE CHAIR LIFT IN THE EAST TOWER  
WILL PROVIDE EASY ACCESS FOR THOSE NEEDING  
ASSISTANCE NAVIGATING THE STAIRS.***

**PRAISE SONG**

**“BLEST ARE THEY”**

Haas/Joncas

### **Verse 1**

Blest are they, the poor in spirit  
Theirs is the kingdom of God  
Blest are they, full of sorrow  
They shall be consoled

### **Chorus (to be repeated after each verse)**

Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you; holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the Kingdom of God

### **Verse 2**

Blest are they, the lowly ones  
They shall inherit the earth  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst  
They shall have their fill

### **Verse 3**

Blest are they who show mercy  
Mercy shall be theirs  
Blest are they, the pure of heart  
They shall see God

### **Verse 4**

Blest are they who seek peace  
They are the children of God  
Blest are they who suffer in faith  
The glory of God is theirs

### **Verse 5**

Blest are you who suffer hate  
All because of me  
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom  
Shine for all to see

### **Ending - sing Chorus twice**

Songwriters: Mark Hayes, David Haas. For non-commercial use only. Data From: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com)