



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day



Baptism of the Lord
January 7, 2018



Prelude

"Raindrop Prelude"

by Chopin

Westminster Peal

Choral Call to Worship

"Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator"

by Tilly Lubis, David Diephouse, Batak Melody arr. H.A. Pandopo

*Hallelujah! Sing praise to your Creator, sun, moon, and stars and angels above.
Praise the Lord, whose word established the heavens,
Who upholds all the earth in power and love.
God reigns on high, let the heavens rejoice! God reigns on high, let the heavens rejoice!*

Gathering as the Children of God

Elder John Allen

One: The voice of the Lord—Strong and Mighty, powerful and full of majesty.

All: *It calls to us, calling across the water.*

One: The voice of the Lord breaks forth.

All: *It gives us strength and blessing, causing us to shout "Glory to the name of the Lord!"*

† Opening Hymn No. 492

"Baptized in Water"

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Elder Allen

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Allen

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

People: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

† Response

"Glory to the Father"

(hymn no. 567)

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

Today in worship we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This Sunday, we set aside to remember Jesus' baptism by John and the example of the sacrament he set for us. We recall our baptism as adopted heirs into Christ's covenant, sealed by the Holy Spirit through faith.



Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Ricardo Green

Scripture Lesson (p.1 OT)

Genesis 1:1-5

Anthem/Special Music

"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him "

by Gregg Sewell

*Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him; Praise him angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him; Praise him all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! For he hath spoken: worlds his mighty voice obeyed:
Law which never shall be broken for their guidance hath he made.
Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord we offer unto thee;
Young and old, thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore thee, we would bow before thy throne:
As thine angels serve before thee, so on earth thy will be done.
Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, his power proclaim:
Heaven and earth and all creation laud and magnify his name!*

Gregg Sewell is a contemporary composer who has published over 2,600 compositions and arrangements. Among its credits is founding one of the first computer-based music engraving companies in the United States in 1985.

Scripture Lesson (p. 32 NT)

Mark 1:4-11

Rev. Rachael Whaley Pate

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A New Beginning

Rev. Whaley Pate

† **Affirmation of Faith** From the Second Helvetic Confession Elizabeth Small
Baptism was instituted and consecrated by God. First John baptized, who dipped Christ in the water in Jordan. From him it came to the apostles, who also baptized with water. The Lord expressly commanded them to preach the Gospel and to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And later, Peter said to the Jews who inquired what they ought to do: "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Hence by some baptism is called a sign of initiation for God's people, since by it the elect of God are consecrated to God. There is but one baptism in the church of God; and it is sufficient to be once baptized or consecrated unto God. For baptism once received continues for all of life, and is a perpetual sealing of our adoption.

The Second Helvetic Confession was written in 1562 as a confession of faith for Reformed churches in Switzerland. By 1600, the confession had been adopted by most Reformed churches in Europe.



† **Passing of the Peace**

Elizabeth Small

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.

† **Hymn No. 494**

"Out of Deep, Unordered Water"

Church Family Life

Elizabeth Small

Please take this time to pass the attendance notebooks located at the end of the pew row.

If you are a visitor, we invite you to visit our information center located in the Narthex.

The Eucharist *(see insert)*

After you are invited to come forward for communion down a center aisle, take bread from the first elder on your side of the sanctuary and eat; a cup from the next elder and drink; and place the empty cup in the tray held by the third elder before returning to your pew by the side aisle. If you prefer gluten-free bread, go to the pastor in the center. Those unable or uncomfortable coming forward will be served in their pew. Please raise your hand at the pastor's request.



Moved by the Spirit

January Communion Offering

Elizabeth Small

Offering

Offertory

"Prelude Modal"

by Jean Langlais

† **Response**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

The Doxology

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Elizabeth Small

† **Closing Hymn No. 70**

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

† **Benediction**

Rev. Whaley Pate

† **Congregational Response**

"Amen"

(hymn no. 586)

† **Postlude**

"Improvisation"

by Nick Johns-Cooper

† Those who are able, please stand

Wholehearted worship is our goal for everyone in the congregation. To make this possible for parents, we provide child care for young children from 8:45 am - 12:15 pm. We welcome children and encourage their participation in worship. The Nursery is located downstairs (Rm 120). Parents with children who may have difficulty sitting through the entire service may choose to sit in the balcony on the Mt. Vernon Hwy. side, allowing more freedom of movement. Adult supervision is required at all times.

MVPC Mission Statement

Blessed to Be a Blessing

We are a Presbyterian church filled with love and energy – an inclusive congregation committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service.*

- As **children of God**, we seek to *praise* God in worship and in all that we say and do
- As **disciples of Jesus Christ**, we *listen* to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community
- As **members of a family of faith**, we strive to *love* one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles
- **Moved by the Spirit**, we *serve* our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others.



Giving to MVPC is easy online
<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

MVPC Staff

TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts
Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry
Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries
Nick Johns-Cooper, Organist

Lauren McClintock, Communications Coordinator

Lillianette Cook, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Ray, Business Administrator
Jill Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Yvonne White, Financial Secretary