

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Ronald Smith, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
David Shedden, Seminary Intern

January 7, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

*Enter Reverently, Meditate Quietly, Worship Devoutly,
Leave Gratefully, Serve Christ Faithfully*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Wooten

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WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 43:1-7)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The Lord calls to you today. He speaks with words of old – words
meant also for this day. He calls to you and says: *Do not fear, for I
have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.*

**People: Because he knows us and goes with us,
when we pass through the waters and walk through the fire,
we will not be afraid.**

Leader: The Lord will not let the waters overwhelm you or the fire consume
you. You are precious in his sight. He honors you and loves you. He
has given people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

**People: The Holy One of Israel is our Savior.
He is with us. Glorious is his name.**

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**All: Gracious God, Holy One of Israel, Holy and Glorious indeed is your
Name. We praise and thank you this day for being our Savior, for
counting us as your precious children, for knowing us and being with
us when we pass through the waters and when we are called to walk
through the fire. Truly, O Lord, your rod and your staff, they com-**

fort us. So it is we ask today that you manifest your presence to us. Help us in this time of prayer and worship to see you anew. Be especially present in this, your holy sanctuary, and inhabit all our prayer and our praise. Help us to lift up your name and to hear your word and to do it. Amen.

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*OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#464

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The Psalmist wrote about God's overwhelming majesty and Isaiah wrote about God's overwhelming love. We long to experience these aspects of God's being. But too often we are so overwhelmed by uncertainty about the future and feelings of powerlessness in the present that we fail to hear God speaking to us either personally or through the forces of nature. We long to hear God's words addressed to us: *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.*

People: Forgive us for listening to – and believing – voices that call us worthless and unlovable.

Leader: Hear God's words speak louder: *I have called you by name, you are mine.*

People: Forgive us when we feel imprisoned by our fears – fear of pain, of loneliness, of death.

Leader: Hear God's freeing words of love: *When you pass through trying times which threaten to engulf you, I will be with you.*

People: Forgive our negative feelings about ourselves and other people.

Leader: Hear the reassuring words of God: *You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.* Loving and merciful God, forgive us when we allow our fears and our worries to stifle your voice of love. Help us to hear your words of love reverberate in every corner of our being so that we know that we too are your beloved, on whom your favor rests. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#326

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.**

**Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The good news is that God has redeemed us in and through Jesus – who came “to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Friends, believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page)

#579

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace!

(Students in grades 1-12 are dismissed for their Bible classes.**)**

*HYMN

Lord, When You Came to Jordan

#71

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Page 60

SPECIAL MUSIC

Remember Me

Pethel

SERMON

Somebody's Calling My Name

Rev. Muriel Burrows

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the Lord.*

(Please note that the Ushers will take the weekly tithes and offerings – followed immediately by the Deacons who will take the monthly offering for their particular ministry. Please hold your Deacons' offering and put it into the second plate.)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page)

#592

*SHARING GOD'S BLESSING

All: Loving and Eternal God – we present ourselves and our offerings to you this day as a sign of our thanksgiving and an expression of our trust in you. We pray that you will bless all that we give to you, touch it with your Holy Spirit and use it to accomplish your purpose – both in heaven and on earth, now – and forevermore. Amen.

COMMUNION LITANY

- Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

- Leader: Loving God, in many and various ways you have visited and redeemed your people – finally sending to us your Son, Jesus. We thank you, Lord God, for sending him to us: As one of us he came, at first a tender infant, then a child, a youth, and an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced, he wept with those who wept. To the despairing he spoke a word of hope, to the sick he gave healing, to the rejected he was a friend. And yet he was betrayed and nailed to a cross. But you, O God, lifted him from the grave and restored him to life that he might be with us and we with him – alive – forevermore. Therefore, with all the saints and with the angels in heaven we praise you, saying:
- People: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.**
- Leader: Eternal God, King of heaven and earth: the life and death of thy Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we proclaim; his resurrection from the dead and his ascension we confess; his coming in triumph we await.
- People: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Words of Institution

Merciful God – as we await the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we do as he commanded us to do – and we spread this Holy Feast before you – remembering how on the night that Jesus was betrayed he took the bread and gave you thanks, saying: *Take and eat: this is my body which will be broken for you.* We recall as well how, in the same way, when the meal was over, he took the cup, the cup of blessing and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take, drink this is my blood, the blood of a new covenant, which will be shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. When you do this, do it in memory of me.*

The Prayer for the Spirit

- Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Leader: Loving God, we pray Thee to send thy Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here – that these gifts – this bread and this wine – may be for us the body and the blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. Give us the mind of Christ as

we partake of this sacrament of life and hope that we may follow him faithfully as we await his return in glory. We ask it in his name.

People: Amen.

The Distribution of the Elements

HYMNS	<i>Become to Us the Living Bread</i>	#500
	<i>Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether</i>	#504

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Let us pray: We give you thanks, O Lord, for receiving us at your table.

People: We thank you for the life you have bestowed on us and the life that you have promised to us.

Leader: So it is that we proclaim to you our faith and our hope.

People: We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*HYMN *Spirit of the Living God* #322

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee* Dubois

* Congregation stands
** Latecomers ushered in

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshippers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office for further information if you are interested in church membership (609-924-1666 or witherspoon@verizon.net).



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGE GROUPS! Adults will meet on their own schedule each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. All other Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-12 begin immediately

after the children's message in morning worship. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

NURSERY CARE is provided for children 0-5 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Today Edwina Hawes is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Desiree Gaiter.

FLOWERS - If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply to beautify the church, please sign up on the chart located on the door of the sound room (left-hand entrance from the sanctuary to the parish house). After worship service, the donor may take the flowers home. At present, it is the responsibility of the person giving the flowers to make his/her own arrangements for preparation and delivery of the flowers for the Chancel. The next available date is January 14.

USHERS for this morning's service are Melvin and Regina Campbell. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Jonathan Colbert and William Edmonds with Isaiah Edmonds, manager.

COMMUNION SERVERS for this morning are Deloris Brooks, Vicki Meisel, Shirley Satterfield and Elizabeth Zingg.



COFFEE HOUR - Host for the month of January is Doris Burrell. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Doris (609-924-2296).

ATTENDANCE at the service of December 31 was 114.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, January 14, is Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR JANUARY** are Bernadine Hines (Team Leader), Deborah Colbert, Cecelia Hodges and Mildred Trotman. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Curtis Johnson, Florence Sharpless and Vicki Meisel.



MANY THANKS – *Dear Friends, thank you for all the wonderful gifts and cards that I received at Christmas. I treasure the gifts and treasure even more your love and thoughtfulness. Grace and peace,*
Rev. Muriel Burrows

Barbara Brown thanks *the church family for your phone calls, inspiring cards and words, and lovely flowers on the death of my father, John Pannell.*

LÓÓK at THIS!

ATTENTION ALL ELDERS WHO SERVE THE CHURCH AT PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY – please tell the church secretary (witherspoon@verizon.net or 609-924-1666) the office and capacity in which you serve as soon as possible so this information can be included in the Annual Congregational Report.

Don't Forget

All members of the Finance Committee are asked to meet immediately following today's service in the church office (112 Witherspoon).



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – Offering envelopes for 2007 are in and available for pick up from the table in the Fellowship Hall. There are still a number of members and friends who have not submitted a pledge card for next year. This process is crucial for the

development of the church budget and the overall financial plan for the future. Extra cards may be obtained from a member of the committee or the Stewardship mailbox.



FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please

consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



2007 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – The *Annual Congregational Meeting* will immediately follow the service on **Sunday, January 28**. ***Please note*** that all committee chairs and ministry leaders should submit their reports for inclusion in the Annual Report to the church office **no later than next Sunday, January 14**, to allow adequate time for preparation. Your assistance is appreciated.



MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE will be held at Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church on **Monday, January 15**, at 7:00 p.m. This annual service is sponsored by the Princeton Clergy Association. Rev. Dr. Stacy Johnson will preach. He is the Arthur M. Adams Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary.



Trenton Area
Habitat
for Humanity®

ATTENTION WSPC VOLUNTEERS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – The joint WSPC/Nassau Presbyterian Church project continues to need volunteers. It is not too late for you to support this important effort. There is a critical need for crew

chiefs for the remaining Saturdays in January, February and early March. **CAN YOU PLEASE COMMIT OR RECOMMIT TO OUR PROJECT FOR THE FEW WEEKS LEFT? CONTACT MEG COGLAN (609-651-2945 OR 609-921-1050, X138) AND LET HER KNOW WHICH DAYS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP.** Volunteers who have not received Habitat T-shirts may contact Barbara Flythe (732-274-9435 or seavy33@aol.com).



Music at Witherspoon | **NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES** – Come one, come all! Enjoy the music of Lin Wang, cellist, at the *Noontime Series* in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, February 7**, at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will follow. This recital is free, however donations are always welcome. Flyers will soon be available in the narthex for you to share with your family, friends and acquaintances.