

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON *CHOSEN BY GOD* Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) (Insert)

THE OFFERTORY Hymn 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 156 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

*THE CHARGE (Minister)

THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

*Lay Liturgist
Lois Hopkins*

*Ushers
Emily Allen*

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*January Twentieth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Nineteen
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today.
Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Isaiah 43:1-7

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 744 *Arise, your light is come!*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shows on you today.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Come, all who thirst. Come to the font of life!

Congregants: Dip your soul into the water of life.

Minister: Come, all who hunger. Come and be fed.

Congregants: Eat your fill of the bread of life.

Minister: Come, all who are weary. Come to worship!

Congregants: Rest your spirits in the house of the Lord.

Minister: Come and join the fellowship of hope and joy.

Congregants: Come and worship God!

Minister: Let us enter now His presence and His glory.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**God of winter cold and God of summer heat,
God of spring rains and God of autumn leaves,
we gather together this morning to worship You.**

**Yours alone is the earth with all its fullness,
Yours are the moons and planets and stars
spinning through the cosmos of Your creation,
and Yours are the lives here before You
in all their possibilities and complications.
Lift our eyes that we might see Your visions,
open our ears that we might hear Your Word,
strengthen our hands and feet
that they might carry Your love,
and give us voice to praise and adore You,
through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE 687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)
Scripture tells us of the voice crying in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord!
Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"
Therefore, trusting in God's grace, let us repent,
confess our sins, and seek His forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**God of grace, have mercy on us.
Forgive us for ignoring and shouting
when Your Spirit beckons us to listen.
Forgive us for our complacency
when we are called to be agents of change.
Forgive us for focusing on ourselves
when there is need to serve others.
Forgive us for being willfully uninformed
when there is so much we still can learn from You.
God of grace, have mercy upon us,
and move us into the life You have waiting.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)
This is Good News, the word of truth,
worthy of all acceptance and belief.
Jesus Christ has borne our shortcomings,
and by his stripes we are healed.
He has won our salvation forever.
May his name be praised forever and ever!

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS Hymn 853 *We Are Marching in the Light of God*
We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)
We are marching, marching, we are marching, "oo," marching, we are marching in the light
of, the light of God. (repeat)

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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; and forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways* Hymn 164

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by
John. He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave, but there within the river the sign
was birth and grave.

Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn; it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's
form. The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice; "You are my own beloved, my child, my
heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place. We all have had to travel in search of hope
and grace. But now beside this water again a voice is heard. "You are my own, my chosen,
beloved of your Lord."

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)**

**I believe in the God Who speaks to us out of our past,
Who guides our steps through cherished traditions
and informs us through memories and past experiences.**

**I believe in the God Who is with us now, in every moment,
Who is still active and present in the world
and Who reveals Himself to us as we choose to do His
Will.**

**I believe in the God Who holds our future,
Who holds the destiny of all nations in His hands
and is shaping tomorrow for the shape of His coming
Kingdom.**

**I bow my knee to the Christ of all ages and generations,
who has revealed the presence of God in our midst,
and who has chosen me to share in his work through the
Church,
which keeps alive the ministry of word and sacrament
for the salvation of all people.**

**May God help me to do my best each day,
to live his love for those around me,
to walk responsibly in His way,
and to pray for His coming into every human heart. Amen.**

We light the Baptismal Candle today to remember **Amai and Amari Newman Gilliard** who were presented for baptism by their mother, Brett Newman, and father, Eric on January 11, 2015. Celebrating with them are their grandparents, Bob and Debbie Newman along with Aunt and Uncle Jeremy & Kristin Newman. May we all remember the promise we made to help guide Amai and Amari as they grow in the Christian faith.

Announcements

Ushers for January 27, 2019 –

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HAS BEEN SET this morning at the end of the worship service, for the purpose of presenting the 2019 budget. While no action is scheduled to be taken, all members are encouraged to attend so that information on the congregation's finances can be shared.

THE SESSION will hold its regular monthly meeting next Sunday, January 27th, following the morning worship service.

I've moved into assisted living in Hickory NC, after breaking my foot over Thanksgiving and having a stroke Christmas Eve. I am doing well and improving everyday, and looking forward to the activities offered at Brookdale! Phone calls, cards and visits are greatly appreciated!
Rose Howard Brookdale Hickory Northeast, 2530 16th Street NE, Hickory NC 28601 (my cell#) 540-355-7379

Northminster received a word of thanks from Bryce Wiebe, Director of Presbyterian Missions Special Offerings for our support of three special offerings. We sent \$202.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing, \$112.50 for the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and \$157.20 for the Pentecost Offering. Thanks to all who gave so generously to these special offering. If you would like to read the whole letter, it will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the office.

SERVE ON A PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE! Our Presbytery of the Peaks is seeking volunteers to help in the work of our regional Presbyterian ministry. There is a variety of areas of service available, from mission and outreach to administration and youth work. If you are interested in being part of this important work, contact the Minster.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be February 3rd. Please plan to stay after church and enjoy a variety of soups, sandwiches, and desserts. There is no cost for the lunch but donations will be accepted to benefit the Presbyterian Community Center and Soup for the Seniors. If you choose to donate canned soup, it will be delivered to League of Older Americans/Soup for Seniors.

An ice skating outing is being planned for January 27 at Lancerlot Sports Complex in Vinton. Public skating begins at 1:00 p.m. This outing is open to all ages!!! Please let Dana or Frankie know if you will be attending so we can plan accordingly.

Today	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service Congregational Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm 1:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Service Session Meeting Ice Skating Outing

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Betty Dixon	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Rose Howard
Tom Kirby	Jim Maile	Floyd Moretz
Ramona Ortiz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Bill Waddell	George Wingeier
Shirley Wynn		

Friends and Family

Mike Duckworth-(Holly Woodson's brother-in-law)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace

Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale,
Holly Woodson

Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Lynn Kirby, Bob Newman,
Dave Snider