

Invitation to the Offering (Communal)

The earth belongs to God, our creator;
every good thing is a gift from the Lord.
Let us glorify God through the gifts of our lives.



Highland Presbyterian Church
Maryville, TN
Sunday, January 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord

Closing Hymn: *O Christ, the Great Foundation* Hymn. 443

Blessing and Charge Matthew Benz-Whittington

Know that you are a beloved Child of God.
Go forth in the light and love of God,
giving glory to God in all that you do.
Amen.

Our Mission:
Highland Presbyterian Church seeks to be a diverse and inclusive Christian Community as we embody the love and forgiveness of Jesus by serving the community and the world, drawing people to Christ.

Postlude *Wade in the Water* Spiritual / Taylor

Prelude *Cleanse Me* Maori melody / Wyrzten

Welcome Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

All: The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.

One: At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John.

All: The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove.

One: Then God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

All: With gratitude and joy, let us worship God together!

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Pastor: Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington
matthew@highlandpresby.org
Choir Director: Sharon Brothers
Organist: Jussara Horton
Church Secretary: Lindsay Rogers

Time for the Children Matthew

***Opening hymn:**

Come Down, O Love Divine

Hymn. 313

Affirmation of Faith (Communal)

Adapted from the Second Helvetic Confession

Prayer for Illumination (Communal)

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God-
tear open the veil of heaven
and speak to us as beloved children
so that we may hear and believe
the good news of your Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture:

Mark 1:4-11

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon:

Matthew Benz-Whittington

Special Music

Down to the River to Prayer

Bethany and Matthew Benz-Whittington

**We believe that 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.
Therefore we are baptized with visible water.
For just as the water washes dirt away,
Cool and refreshes hot and tired bodies,
the grace of God performs these things for souls.
Therefore we confess our faith when we are baptized,
and obligate ourselves to God for obedience and newness of life.
Amen.**

Reflective Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Each stanza will end with, "Give strength, O Lord."

The people will respond with, "**And bless us with peace.**"

There will be a moment of silence following that and people may lift up prayers during this time.

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.