



*January 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.*

Gathering and Welcome

Rev. Todd Smith

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Voluntary

*Mary Did You Know*

Lynda McRee  
and Joe Ostrowski

Call to Worship

Lynda McRee

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God?

People: **All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

Hymn # 63

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

**Dear Lord, we come before You as Your children to give You honor and praise. You are the One and Only true God, the Giver of life and the Sustainer of our souls. We are grateful for Your grace, how You love us, how you call us to be Your hands and feet. Responding to Your great mercy, we need to confess how we have sinned and fallen short of the people You created us to be. We have said and done mean and selfish things, we have hurt others, and we have lived as if the universe revolves around us. We have strayed from our worship of You and gone our own way. We are sorry. Please forgive us. Cause us to truly repent and turn around to face You. In Jesus' Name who taught us to pray. . . 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 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.**

(Silent prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri*



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it



was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world without end. **A-men, A-men.**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**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; on 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.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Children's Lesson

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 19:1-7

19 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— 7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Homily

When Jesus came to the edge of the water, John recognized that he was "the one" who "is more powerful than I ... I am not worthy to stoop down and untie his sandals." If anyone needed to skip this particular mudbath, it was Jesus. In Matthew's version, John is incredulous that the Messiah would need any kind of baptism — "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" (Matthew 3:14). Yet, Jesus willingly steps down into the brown water to take on the same muddy mark as his people.

When we're baptized, we take on that same mark. Jesus' baptism is the prototype for those of us who would follow him. What does our baptism say about us?

We understand baptism as a mark of God's favor. Look at verses 9-11. Jesus comes to the Jordan River to be baptized by John, and for him it is a form of anointing — not just with water but with the Spirit. Here we see the Trinity in action: the Son receiving the blessing, the Father expressing his love for the Son, and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Baptism marks Jesus as "the Beloved," in whom God's own nature is revealed and with whom God is "well pleased." It's a powerful expression of the intimacy of God's own relational nature.

For us, baptism is a sign of God's favor as well, but it is favor that is unmerited. We recognize that we can't "fake out" God and be something that we're not, so we "come clean" through repentance and confession, and we simply receive the love of God who created us and sees us as being "very good."

There's more. The baptism of Jesus was a form of anointing by which the Messiah, the promised One, would save Israel and the whole world. Israelite kings were marked as a symbol of their office and their responsibility. For Jesus, and for us, baptism is preparation for ministry.

### Sermon Topic

Living as baptized followers of Christ is something we can't fake. If we are true to the call of our baptism, the world will know us by the spiritual lives we model and by spiritual fruit we exemplify: spiritual lives grounded in kindness, compassion, service and humility.

Hymn #316

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Prayers of the People

Offertory

*I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

Lynda McRee  
and Joe Ostrowski

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.*

Hymn # 322

*Spirit of the Living God*

Benediction

Rev. Todd Smith

Postlude

*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

Lynda McRee  
and Joe Ostrowski

**MARY DID YOU KNOW**  
**By Mark Lowry**

Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod;  
When you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again!  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all Creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb,  
That this sleeping child your holding is the great I Am?

Mary did you know?

Mary...

# As with Gladness Men of Old

63

DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858

1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly man-ger bed,  
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare;  
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day Keep us in the nar - row way;

As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be - fore Him whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure, and free from sin's al - loy,  
And, when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran - somed souls at last

So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er-more be led to Thee.  
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.  
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heaven-ly King.  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

316

Edwin Hatch, 1886

TRENTHAM SM

Robert Jackson, 1894

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.  
Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.  
Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.\*

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining four lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

## I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY By John Yivisaker

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold  
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.  
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time, and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk to rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, completer what I 've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

# Spirit of the Living God

322

LIVING GOD Irregular

Daniel Iverson, 1935; adapted

Daniel Iverson, 1935

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a - fresh on me;

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a - fresh on me;". The piano accompaniment is in the same time and key signature, featuring a bass clef and a steady accompaniment of chords and eighth notes.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a - fresh on me.

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a - fresh on me.". The musical notation follows the same structure as the first system.

Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.

The third system of music features a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The lyrics are: "Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.". The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a - fresh on me.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, Fall a - fresh on me.". The musical notation follows the same structure as the previous systems.

# BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM

By Emmylou Harris

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem  
Shining afar through shadows dim  
Giving the light to those who long have gone  
Guiding the Wise Men on their way  
Unto the place where Jesus lay  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

## **Chorus:**

Oh Beautiful Star  
Of Bethlehem  
Shine upon us until the glory dawns  
Give us a lamp to light the way  
Unto the land of perfect day  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Beautiful Star the hope of light  
Guiding the pilgrims through the night  
Over the mountains 'til the break of dawn  
Into the light of perfect day  
It will give out a lovely ray  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

## **Chorus**

Beautiful Star the hope of rest  
For the redeemed, the good and the blessed  
Yonder in glory when the crown is won  
Jesus is now that star divine  
Brighter and brighter He will shine  
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

## **Chorus**

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### **How to Worship with us LIVE on your digital device:**

If you have a Facebook account, please visit and LIKE Bethel Presbyterian Church's page and you may watch the service LIVE there.

OR you can go to our website ... [www.bethel-md.org](http://www.bethel-md.org) You will see the LIVE STREAM SERVICE announcement under the photo of the church. Hit "CLICK HERE" to be taken to the Bethel Presbyterian Church Facebook Page.

You will see a banner at the bottom of the page ... just ignore the banner. It will not go away because it wants you to join Facebook. I assure you that you DO NOT need to join Facebook to watch Pastor Todd's service.

Another banner will pop up wanting you to join Facebook, but all you need to do is click on "NOT NOW" under the green box that says "create New Account" and the banner will go away.

Click on the LIVE STREAM VIDEO and enjoy the service.

**Let's stay connected, even when we are unable to worship together in the same space.**