



First Presbyterian Church of Defiance
January 7, 2024 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday
501 Washington Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512
419-782-2781 www.1presby.com

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE.

***As you enter this holy space, please enter with reverence,
respecting those who are preparing for worship.***

GATHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are able to do so, please stay after worship to help put away the Christmas decorations.

Monday: 5:30 pm Tools for Schools Steering Committee meeting

Wednesday: Fellowship Meal: Pancake supper by the Deacons; serving begins at 5:30 pm; Deacons will meet following the dinner. WeKirk and Youth meet after dinner.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God, you are our life and breath, our light and fire, our teacher and healer. We praise you for your handiwork in shaping creation. We commit ourselves to serve you for the sake of the gospel. We devote ourselves to prayer with and for your people. We offer ourselves with vulnerability, and look to you alone for strength. Be our rest. Be our rock. Be our Lord. Amen. (BCW)

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

P: Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

L: Let us worship the God who knows our names.

P: Let us worship the God who calls us beloved.

***HYMN 96**

ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Trusting that we are beloved, let us go to God in prayer. For we know that the one who listens, listens with love. What greater gift exists than that?

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. And in this doubting, we stray from your will and way. We do things we shouldn’t do and we don’t do the things we should do, the things Jesus taught us to do. Forgive us. Help us amend what we are and direct what we shall be. We trust you because when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, God’s grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. Please say these words of grace with me: **Our story begins with God’s gracious love for us. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God!**

***THE PEACE**

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Please share Christ’s peace with one another.

***HYMN 582**

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

HEAR

WeKIRK WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 3: 7-22

SERMON

BELOVED & CALLED

RESPOND

HYMN 164

DOWN GALILEE’S SLOW ROADWAYS

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS

OFFERING NOTE

The Deacons are gathering items for care boxes for our 3 college students; bring your donation to the conference room by the end of the month. Thank you!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

SCATTER TO SERVE

***HYMN 482**

BAPTIZED IN WATER

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Family of faith, as you leave this time, you go into a weary world - so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing. The world needs it.

POSTLUDE

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

*Liturgy adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC
| sanctifiedart.org.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR Evan Bates, Larry Bates, Joy Reid, Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sharon Lee, Wilma Sponsler and her daughter, Helen, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Dave Roth (Youkers), Karen Solether, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Nancy Black, Karen Barber, Sue D'Ambrosia (Nikki's mother-in-law), Nicole D'Ambrosia, Marty & Deb Kennedy (Elaine M.), Judy Chase, Raegan Wonderly, Pastor Fausto.