

Order of Divine Worship
Baptism of the Lord
January 8, 2006

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Russell Mase
PRELUDE: "Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice".....Moravian, arr. Robert Elmore
(Christy Floyd, organ)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing, and bless God's name;
Tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.
Proclaim God's glory to the nations,
God's marvelous deeds to all peoples.
Let us worship God!

*HYMN: "Majesty"..... No.43
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Friends, hear again the good news: through faith in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"..... No. 386
Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin; from earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.

Sealing God's Word (11:00 a.m.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Insert

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON Fred Coates
SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:14-18 (pew Bible, page 87)

ANTHEM: "Go, Tell It On The Mountain"..... arr. Patrick Liebergen
(8:30 a.m.) Bob Campbell, (11:00 a.m.) Lynelle Owen
(Lucas Johnston, soloist; Billie Brawley, pianist)

SERMON: "Life Itself Is Grace"..... Russell Mase

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN: "Baptized in Water"..... No.679

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that

nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI: "Glory Be to the Father".....No. 734
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 for ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: (8:30 a.m.) "If With All Your Hearts" from Elijah Felix Mendelssohn
(Lucas Johnston)
(11:00 a.m.) "Walk Worthy" Joseph Martin
(Chancel Choir)

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow" No. 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (8:30 a.m.) Mac Herring, (11:00 a.m.) John Rader
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS (11:00 a.m.)

Bearing God's Word into the World

*HYMN: "A Charge to Keep I Have".....No. 588

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (12:00 noon)

*BENEDICTION

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

Visitors: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this last Sunday of 2004. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad.

Our church officers, Class of 2005, will rotate off the Session and Board of Deacons this morning. We express appreciation to them for their dedicated service to Christ and our congregation. They are:

Elders		Deacons	
Beverly Chappell	Diane Harrington	Karen Brawley	Thermond Thompson
Pat Culberson	Philip Heilman	Brad Chappell	Scott Vaughan
Mary Fortanbary	Bill Lackey	Stacey Faulkenberry	Tony White
Sue Stevens			

Officers-elect will be ordained and/or installed by the Session this morning. Ordination is the act by which the church sets apart persons to be ministers, elders and deacons, and is accompanied with prayer and the laying on of hands. The office of elder and deacon is perpetual; therefore, those previously ordained to their office will only be installed. Since their election by the congregation last October, all the officers-elect have received instruction in the doctrine and government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the duties of their office. New officers to be ordained as well as installed are indicated with an asterisk (*).

Deacons, Class of 2007

Mike Ladd Eric Pluer*

Class of 2008

Elders		Deacons	
C.P. Chappell	Eddie Nelson	Don Copeland*	Jim McDonnell
Roger Hyatt	Trent Newell*	Neil Faulkenberry*	Scott Ray*
William Lackey	Steve Robinson	Gretchen Little*	Susan Williams*
Scott Mauney		Carol McClure*	

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Whitney Crymes, son of Emie and Diane and brother of Melissa and Blake, by the Crymes family.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Helen McCullough and Nancy Smith in the death of Helen's sister in Augusta, GA on December 30.

Graduate: Congratulations and prayerful best wishes are extended to Karen Lackey who recently graduated from East Carolina University. Please notify the church office of additional graduations.

We welcome to our service today vocalist, Lucas Johnston. Lucas is a junior at Mars Hill College where he studies voice. He is the son of Al and Diane Johnston and the grandson of Victor and Helen Johnston, of our congregation. Lucas will present a recital at 3:30 this afternoon at Coddle Creek ARP Church. You are cordially invited to attend.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered this morning during the 11:00 a.m. service to Isabella Annabeth Putnam, daughter of Lane and Melissa Putnam. Bob and Jane James will serve as sponsors. Isabella is the granddaughter of Celia and Larry Putnam.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held at 12:00 noon today.

Women's Bible Study: "A Woman After God's Own Heart," a ten-week Bible study for women, is scheduled to begin this Friday, January 13, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. Child care will be available; please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) if you are interested in attending.

Church Cookbooks will be for sale this morning in the parlor.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's breakfast
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration, baptism and installation of new officers
12:00 p.m. - Congregational meeting to approve 2006 budget
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl ministry in the parlor
4:00 p.m. - Youth Council meeting
5:13 p.m. - PYP
7:00 p.m. - Committee Organizational Meeting and New Committee meetings
- Monday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle No. 1 in the parlor
6:15 p.m. - Blessed in Christ (No. 3) in the Session room
7:00 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life Bible Study at the home of Liz Price
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fred and Jean Coates
- Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle of Faith (No. 4) in the parlor
5:30 p.m. - PYP Supper Club at Lancaster's BBQ
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:30 p.m. - Women of the Word (No. 5) at Mary Fortanbary's home
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM - *Hilarious Hat Night*
5:00 p.m. - Kairos
5:30 p.m. - Confirmation Class
5:30 p.m. - High School Bible study at the White's home
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy & Harding Rogers
6:00 p.m. - Fun and Fellowship at Fat Boy's
- Friday: 10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study in the Parlor



First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue

Mooresville, North Carolina

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...

Habakkuk 2:20

AN ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation

Persons to be baptized are brought to the font and presented for baptism. Parents promise to fulfill the responsibilities for Christian nurture. Sponsors promise to support those being baptized in their growth in the faith. The congregation promises to love and nurture the newly baptized and to assist them to be faithful disciples.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ’s ministry of love, peace and justice.

Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

On behalf of the session, I present **Isabella Annabeth Putnam** to receive the sacrament of baptism.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND YOUNGER CHILDREN

Do you desire that your child be baptized?

Relying on God’s grace,
do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

SPONSORS

Do you promise, through prayer and example,
to support and encourage her to be a faithful Christian?

CONGREGATION

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,
promise to guide and nurture her by word and deed, with love and prayer,
encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

Profession of Faith

Those coming to be baptized, parents, and sponsors make vows, renouncing the ways of evil and affirming the way of Christ. The congregation joins them in affirming the faith of the church in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

As God embraces you within the covenant, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of 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; 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.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

God’s saving acts are remembered with thanksgiving, and the Holy Spirit is invoked, that those who are baptized may have their sins washed away, be reborn to new life, be buried and resurrected with Christ, and be incorporated into the body of Christ.

The Baptism

In the name of the triune God, the minister sprinkles water on the head of each candidate.

Isabella, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Blessing

As a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism, the minister lays hands upon the head and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized, praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit. A baptismal candle lighted from the paschal candle is given to the newly baptized as a sign of the light which comes from the risen Christ, expressing the link between every baptism and Christ’s death and resurrection.

O Lord, uphold Isabella by your Holy Spirit.
May she know and follow Christ and be a faithful member of your church, both now and forever.
Amen.

Isabella, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ’s own forever. **Amen.**

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Welcome

The congregation welcomes the newly baptized into the household of God, sharing signs of peace.

Isabella has been received into the one holy universal and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ’s church
to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.