



Baptism of Jesus, by Lorenzo Scott

9 January 2022
Baptism of the Lord

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

New Bern, North Carolina
Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

as your own, loving us without limit. Wash us with your love again, that with clean hearts we may go in the way of Jesus.

(We pause for a time of silent confession)

In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

(11 am) Children’s Moment

Marianna Dunn

Lord’s Prayer (Hymnal p. 35)

*2nd-grade children or younger may depart for Children’s
Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center*

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Luke 3:15-22

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he

suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Ordination and Installation of Elders

Class of 2023: Brent Hinckley

*Class of 2024: James Copland, Christin Grady, Kenneth Holton,
Vaughn Purnell, Helen Robinson, and Joyce Weaver*

Questions for the Elders being Ordained and/or Installed

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
4. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
5. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline?

6. Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
7. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
8. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
9. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
10. Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Questions for the Congregation

1. Do we, the members of the church, accept Brent, Jim, Christin, Ken, Vaughn, Helen, and Joyce as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?
2. Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Ordination Prayer and the Laying on of Hands

*All those previously ordained are invited forward to participate.
Also being included in the prayer are members of the class of 2023:
Phoebe Briley, Middleton Hinckley, Mark Moeller,
Mike Newman, Beth Paul, and Margaret Pritchett*

Declaration of Ordination

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Nancy Difede to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Meredith Hardy Nelson.

We celebrate the 90th birthday of Barbara Williford on January 8.

*Congratulations to Ayiu Puih and Noan Kpuih
on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Kpuih, on January 2.*

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God of mercy and might. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You have called forth men and women in every age to be your servants and speak your word. When we rebelled against your call and turned from your ways, in your love you called us back to you. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You sent prophets to call us to justice and compassion. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light, and our salvation. Baptized in Jordan's waters, Jesus took his place with sinners and your voice proclaimed him your beloved. Your Spirit anointed him to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to restore sight to the blind, to free the oppressed. He lived among us in power and grace, touching broken lives with your healing peace. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be a communion with our Lord Jesus Christ. By your, Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. O God, as you once claimed us in the Spirit's waters and number us among your own beloved, give us power to do your work, to show your love, and to live holy and joyful lives. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

The elders will pass the elements through the pews.

We invite you to hold onto the bread and then the cup until all have received so we can, at the invitation of the worship leader, partake together.

All of the elements are gluten-free.

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Postlude

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Lovelace

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the wooden collection boxes nearest the exit you use.

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Soloist: Pat Kerr Rowlett

Worship Notes:

The prayer of preparation is from Steven Shakespeare, "Prayers for an Inclusive Church." (New York: Church Publishing, 2009).

The prayer of confession is from *Call to Worship: Volume 55.1 Lectionary Aids 2021–2022, Year C* ©2021 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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WELCOME VISITORS! Please write your name on a visitor's badge for your blouse or lapel. Along with our members, please sign the Friendship Pad when passed to you during the service.

CHILDREN are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. The nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am-12:15 pm. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center. For all children in worship, there are worship bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

RESTROOMS are available in the Ministry Center, (including a family restroom), the Session House, and the Fellowship Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with ear coverings are available. Please ask an usher if you have need.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided by ramps between the Ministry Center and the Sanctuary, in the back of the Ministry Center, along the side of the Session house, and at the front and side entrances of the J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center.

MASKS are required in the Sanctuary for the time being. At a meeting of the Worship Commission on December 22, it was decided to return to a mask requirement for worship and to put a pause on singing by the choir and the congregation. It is our hope that this will be a short-lived pause until we have a better grasp of the effects of the Omicron variant. As always, if you have had exposure to someone with Covid-19 or have symptoms that indicate possible

Covid-19 infection, we hope you will either receive a negative test before coming to worship or choose to worship online via video or podcast.

These changes to our Covid-19 response are communicated by email and will be shared on our website and Facebook page. If you'd like to be added to this email list, please contact cathy@firstpresnb.org or visit firstpresnb.org/communications (scroll to the bottom of the page).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 Offering Envelopes in Narthex

Next year's offering envelopes are in the Sanctuary Narthex **through January 16th**. If you are not able to pick your envelopes up during that time, they will be available in the Financial Administrators office. Remember to bring your remaining previous year envelopes to be recycled by the counting team. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Financial Administrator, Amber Zapffel at amber@firstpresnb.org or 252-637-3270 ext. 105.

Youth Fellowship

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, will meet tonight from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house.

Adult Choir Rehearsals are currently on hold until further notice. Pat and Susan will communicate with each choir about rehearsals. Thank you for your patience. Covenant Choir (grades 2-5) and Kinderchoir (grades K & 1) will resume rehearsals this week.

January Fellowship Meal

The January Fellowship Meal has been postponed. Stay tuned for details to come!

Time and Talents Survey – For Everyone!



How are you giving of your time and your talents? Where is God calling you to serve? The Time and Talents Survey was mailed to you last month and extra print copies are available in the Church Office and Narthex. If you would like to complete the survey online, you can find it firstpresnb.org/time-and-talent-survey-2022.html or use the QR code to the left.

Donations of Teacups and Saucers Needed

Habitat for Humanity of Craven County is hosting a Women's Tea Fundraiser for International Women's Day on March 8, 2022. Currently, they are looking for donations of teacups, saucers, teapots, and tiered trays. Before donating, please check your items for chips and cracks; cups and saucers do not have to be matching. Donations can be dropped off Wednesday-Saturday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm at their ReStore located at 930 Pollock Street. For questions about donations, please reach out to Volunteer Coordinator, Catherine Campbell, at ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org or (252) 633-9599, ext. 104. A small donation like this can help build homes, communities, and hope in big ways!

Help Out with Habitat – Meals Needed

Habitat for Humanity is excited to welcome the following schools this spring for Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break: Sacred Heart University (Connecticut), Franklin Pierce University (New Hampshire), Eastern Connecticut State University, Elmhurst University (Illinois), University of Delaware, and Hartwick College (New York). Help us demonstrate some southern hospitality through food and fellowship. Location will be updated closer to the date, but most likely all sites will be located in the Pembroke community. If you would like to provide lunch or dinner for these students, have a desire to host students at your home or a restaurant, or provide a gift card, you can reach out to Catherine Campbell directly (ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org OR 252-633-9599, ext. 104). If you are able, please plan to stick around for fellowship after dropping off a meal.

Education

Sunday School classes meet Sundays 9:40-10:40 am

Sunday School for Children

Preschool – active play in the Nursery

Kindergarten-5th Grade – Ministry Center Room 1.27 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Middle & High School – Ministry Center Room 2.23-24 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

Sunday School for Adults

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class is currently studying the series “Justice, Law, History” in Old Testament texts. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Getting Old – Growing Gracefully/Lloyd Griffith – Ministry Center Room 2.21 and Zoom

“The laws of nature that dictate sundown dictate our demise.” This final part of our journey raises inevitable questions: What is our relationship with the younger generation? What is truth? What is the connection between work and vocation? How can I stay engaged with the outer life? How can I stay engaged with the inner life? Where do I go when I die? How we respond to these built-in concerns is ours to choose. We can answer this inevitable aging process with denial or defiance and find ourselves on a passage of decline and inaction. OR...we can collaborate faithfully with this unique section on the arc of life and find ourselves on a different passage of engagement and discovery of a Holy energy holding and guiding us along the path. This Sunday School class on aging gracefully will begin on **January 2** at 9:40 am in room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center) and **on Zoom**. We will be

guided through these challenges of the journey by Parker Palmer's "On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity and Getting Older." Please contact the church office or Lloyd Griffith to register for this class. Inquiries welcome!

Law and Religion/James R. Copland – Session House Main Room

America's original constitution did not expressly cover the relationship between church and state. But the Bill of Rights—insisted upon by some states, including North Carolina, as a precondition for joining the union—led off with it: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This course will cover the historical background framing the First Amendment's religion clauses; the evolution of Supreme Court doctrine interpreting them, and modern cases and controversies. Copland is formerly a Coker Fellow in constitutional law at the Yale Law School, but the course is intended for a general, rather than a legal, audience. Where appropriate, Biblical interpretation and discussion will be incorporated to augment the discussion of law. This class will begin on Sunday, **January 2** at 9:40 am in the Session House Main Room.

Church Membership Class/Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight - Ministry Center Conference Room (in the Staff Office Suite)

Whether you have been worshiping with First Presbyterian for one Sunday or one hundred, we'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you about what it means to be a part of a church community—what it might mean for you to take the joyful, faithful step of becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church. To help facilitate these conversations we have scheduled classes to be held on **January 16 and 23** (you are invited and encouraged to attend the class both weeks) during the Sunday School time with the opportunity to join and be welcomed in worship on the 23rd at 11:00 am or the 30th at 8:30 am. If these dates don't work for you, please get in touch with Anna so we can add you to the list for the next time we have these gatherings or so we can meet and find a pathway and timeline that works for you (anna@firstpresnb.org or 252-637-3270).

Guardian Ad Litem Presentation on January 16

If you are interested in helping children in the foster care system, volunteering as a Guardian ad Litem might be right for you! A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) advocate is a trained community volunteer who is appointed, along with a Guardian ad Litem attorney, by a district court judge to investigate and determine the needs of abused and neglected children petitioned into the court system by the Department of Social Services. Throughout North Carolina, the Guardian ad Litem Program seeks to serve the best interests of thousands of children who find themselves the subjects of court cases. The program exists in every county throughout North Carolina, and with the help of more than 5,300 volunteers, serves more than 18,000 children a year. On Sunday, **January 16**, during the Sunday School hour, 9:40-10:40 am in the Session House Main Room. Tracey Brenneman, district administrator for the GAL program, will share information about the program and how you can be involved. For more information visit: volunteerforgal.org

Praying in Color/Sue Callahan – Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center)

Maybe you love color. Maybe you are a visual learner, a distractible or impatient soul, or a word-weary pray-er. Perhaps you struggle with a short attention span, a restless body, or a tendency to live in your head. The prayer practice “Praying in color,” by Sybil MacBeth, invites your hands as well as your mind into prayer and gives you a new way to be with God. Join us starting on **January 23** for a four-week class that explores various ways doodling can be used to pray for others and ourselves. No art experience is required, and supplies will be provided. For more information contact Maren (Maren@firstpresnb.org)

Mid-Week Formation Opportunities

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we begin a new book, *It’s Not About Me* by Max Lucado, a well-known pastor and prolific author, familiar to many in our congregation. Lucado explores how “me-centric” tendencies natural to all of us (ever watch toddlers navigate their little “it’s all about me” worlds?!) get carried into adulthood where “my agenda”, “my

schedule”, “ my issues”, the things that make “me” happy may present in more sophisticated forms, but only serve to alienate us in our constrained “me-centric” universes from others and, most importantly, keep us from flourishing and helping others to flourish in the “God-centric” realm in which all of us are called to live and to serve. For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl 637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller 876-7259 (c).

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with companionship, understanding, support, and guidance as we seek to go on living when someone we love dies. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend. Contact Lloyd Griffith for more information.

Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format. The group will be studying “Soul Force” by Lloyd Griffith and “Immortal Diamond” by Richard Rohr.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship

Led by Lloyd Griffith and meets in the Chapel in the Ministry Center. This contemplative, or reflective, approach to worship is offered each Wednesday from 5 to 5:30 pm. This quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on the Biblical text chosen for preaching the coming Sunday. The Lord’s Supper is observed on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study

We are reading together, “Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice” by Stephanie Paulsell. Our Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets weekly 10-11 am by Zoom. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (Kindle version also available). If you need help acquiring the book or want to be added to the email list for the class, please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Sunday Afternoon Men's Beer and Theology led by Ken Wilkins at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **January 23**. This will be a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Don't let any bad weather stop you from coming – there is a nice indoor space for gathering!

Montreat Women's Conference 2022

Join us at the Montreat Women's Connection Conference Friday-Sunday, August 12-14. The keynote speaker is author Sarah Bessey. More information at montreat.org/women. We will register as a group again this year which means instead of registering on the Montreat website, you register with Maren Sonstegard-Spray (maren@firstpresnb.org). Rooms in the Assembly Inn (with air conditioning and elevator) go very quickly so please contact Maren by Sunday, **January 23rd**. The deposit to hold your spot is \$100. Registration cost includes program, room, and meals (single and double occupancy options) and the prices range from \$391 to \$511 per person. Transportation is on your own and many arranged carpools in previous years. We are offering a discount on the cost of the registration from the McClary Scholarship fund to make it easier to attend the conference! Please contact Maren to learn more about the discount.

Fellowship Café

Join us from 9:30 until 10:45 am in the Fellowship Café (on the first floor of the Ministry Center) for a cup of coffee, a bite or two, and to renew your church friendships, or stop by and grab a coffee on your way to Sunday School!

Church Email List and Church Newsletter

We communicate a lot of things happening in the life of the church through emails through Constant Contact. If you would like to receive regular announcements or the newsletter, or both, please contact Cathy Wingfield (cathy@firstpresnb.org) or sign up on the church website!

Looking for Reception Volunteers

If you enjoy working with friendly people in a terrific environment and can volunteer your time on weekdays from either 9 am-1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office (252-637-3270). We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers!

Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the church to honor an anniversary, birthday, or memorial date coming up this year, please see the Flower Calendar in the pink folder in the Narthex. Dates are filling up fast! If the date you want is already taken, you may also have the flowers displayed in the Narthex on that Sunday.

Nametags

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing their nametags again! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.



First Presbyterian Church

New Bern, North Carolina

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers,
First Presbyterian Church intends to be
an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all.*

*All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership
regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity,
economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*