

# THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

### Chiming of the Hour

### Preparation for Worship

#### Prelude

Chorale Prelude on *In Dulci Jubilo*  
(*In Quiet Joy*)

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

#### \* Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 51

May your love and mercy be upon us today, O Lord.

**Cleanse and refresh us from every transgression.**

Let your joy and gladness dawn in our spirits,

**and the recreating power of your Spirit make us new.**

#### \* Hymn of Praise No. 53

*Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

*Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!*

#### \* Prayer of Praise

Paul Lawrence

#### Welcome

Lia Scholl

#### \* Gathering Music

*All Are Welcome*

Words and arrangement by Marty Haugen

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe-ly live, a  
6 place where saints and chil- dren. tell how hearts learn to for- give. Built of  
10 hopes and dreams and vi- sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall  
15 end di- vi- sions: All are wel- come, all are wel- come,  
18 all are wel- come in this place.

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### Prayers of the People

#### Hymn of Offering No. 173

*As with Gladness*

DIX

*As with gladness sages bold did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.*

*As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.*

### Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

#### \* Offertory Response

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Come*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,  
Whose Daystar shines for us on high.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*Whose Spirit brings into our sight,  
The hope which to our world draws nigh.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!!*

#### \* Offertory Prayer

### Introduction to Our Sacred Text

#### Lesson from the Gospels

Luke 3:1-22, NLT

It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Tracoonitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. Isaiah had spoken of John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!  
Clear the road for him!  
The valleys will be filled,  
and the mountains and hills made level.  
The curves will be straightened,  
and the rough places made smooth.  
And then all people will see  
the salvation sent from God.’”

When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, “You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the

trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.”

The crowds asked, “What should we do?” John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”

Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?” He replied, “Collect no more taxes than the government requires.”

“What should we do?” asked some soldiers. John replied, “Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.”

Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.” John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.

John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for many other wrongs he had done. So Herod put John in prison, adding this sin to his many others.

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

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

#### Anthem

*Guiding Star*

Words and music by Nancy Gifford

#### Sermon

*Remember Your Baptism*

Paula Dempsey and Lia Scholl

#### Godly Play

*Holy Baptism*

#### \* Hymn Response

*This Little Light of Mine*

Traditional

***This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. (3 times)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

*We invite you to commit your life to Christ as a disciple and join our church as a member. You may also wish to reaffirm your faith in Christ or make other commitments. You’re welcome to come forward at this time.*

#### \* Announcements and Godspeed

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

*Winter from The Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

*\*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit.*

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, January 8

- 11:00 Worship
- 12:00 Reception in the Narthex
- 12:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday, January 10

- 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 12:00 Congregational Care Council Lunch and Meeting  
Church Office

### Wednesday, January 11

- 10:00 Community Office Hours, Church Office
- 5:30 Wednesday Night Supper

### Sunday, January 15

- 9:45 Sunday School Classes  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 Worship
- 12:00 Reception in the Narthex
- 12:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 2:30 Administration Council Meeting, Balcony Room

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Today is the Second Sunday of Christmas**, also known as the Baptism of the Lord. We'll focus on the idea of radical baptism. Our special guest is Reverend Paula Dempsey, Director of Partnership Relations with the Alliance of Baptists. She says of her work with the Alliance: "Our commitment to nurturing church leaders, partnership, shared power, radical hospitality, social justice and the larger church in the world are all a part of making gentle our bruised world."

**Today we will receive a special offering that we call "Beans! Beans! They're good for our heart!"** which goes to the New Communion Mobile Pantry, feeding families who do not have access to grocery markets.

**Please note that we now have response cards for all visitors and attendees** of Wake Forest Baptist Church. Please take a moment to fill out a card to register your attendance and any needs that you have.

**Join us Wednesday evening for supper and fellowship.** This Wednesday's menu will be baked potatoes, salad, and dessert. Please fill out the response card or email [admin@wakeforestbaptist.org](mailto:admin@wakeforestbaptist.org) to make a reservation.

**Children** will remain in worship today. If you'd like an activity packet for your child, please see Elizabeth Corney or an usher.

**Hearing devices and large print hymnals** are available. Talk with an usher if you need assistance. Music and lyrics are reprinted with permission of OneLicense # A-719218.



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*BAPTISM OF OUR LORD*

*JANUARY 8, 2017*

*Wake Forest Baptist Church is a progressive, welcoming and affirming  
Christian community committed to Jesus Christ. We value prophetic  
worship, thoughtful religious education, social justice, and peacemaking.*



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