



# WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### JANUARY 12, 2025

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## PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## THE GATHERING

### PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

#### PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Gary Davis

#### PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on *Beach Spring*

Callahan

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

**All: The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.**

Leader: The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

**All: And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"**

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

**All: Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

#### \*HYMN 375

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.  
The people's responses are in bold type.

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

### \*KYRIE

Be Still and Know

Anonymous

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know\_ that I am God.

The musical notation is written on two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

### \*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world.

### \*GLORIA

Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical notation is written on two staves in 6/8 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice blazed upon the waters. May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON:** *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

Gary Davis

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

### PSALM 29 (responsive)

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.

**All: The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**All: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

**All: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl  
and strips the forest bare,  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**All: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

Leader: May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

## SECOND LESSON: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

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

## SERMON

*"You Are Mine"*

Pastor John E. Morgan

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## \*HYMN 482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (Unison)

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.

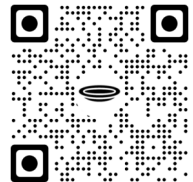
## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 forever. Amen.

## OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit [mywpc.org/offering](http://mywpc.org/offering) or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When Jesus Came to Jordan

arr. Bechtler

When Jesus came to Jordan  
To be baptized by John,  
He did not come for pardon,  
But as his Father's Son.  
He came to share repentance  
With all who mourn their sins,  
To speak the vital sentence  
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,  
Our utmost woe and loss,  
For us and our salvation  
To die upon the cross.  
So when the dove descended  
On him, the Son of Man,  
The hidden years had ended,  
The age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
To keep the vows we make,  
This very day invade us,  
And every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
The gift we covet most;  
To share the resurrection  
That leads to Pentecost.

**\*DOXOLOGY***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise

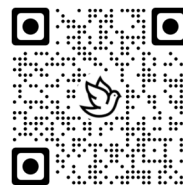
God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

**\*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING**

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit [mywpc.org/friendship](http://mywpc.org/friendship) or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.

**\*HYMN 547***Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYDY NOS

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Wade in the Water*

arr. Harbach

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

## ❧ NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ❧

Today, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Much of our music relates to that story and images of water, rivers, and springs. Our first two hymns, "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Baptised in Water," make clear references to those themes. Our closing hymn, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" is similar to the benediction that a pastor might say at the end of a worship service, or perhaps after a baptism. Today's offertory anthem is about Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river and its significance to all of us.

The hymn tune *Beach Spring* first appeared in the tune book *The Sacred Harp*, published in 1844. It has been set to a number of tunes, including no. 490 in our hymnal, "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters." It asks for God's presence with us through baptism.

This morning's postlude is based on the spiritual song "Wade in the Water." There are many interpretations of the text. One interesting possibility comes from the pen of Howard Thurman, Dean of the Chapel at Howard University, who states:

*For [the slaves] the 'troubled waters' meant the ups and downs, the vicissitudes of life. Within the context of the 'troubled' waters of life there are healing waters, because God is in the midst of the turmoil ... Do not shrink from moving confidently out into the choppy seas. Wade in the water, because God is troubling the water.*

## ❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The Chancel Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of their daughter, Kristi, Barbara's parents, Rith & Allen Lee and Bob's mother, Mildred Carpenter  
by Barbara & Bob Smith

☞ **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY** ☞

**PASTOR**

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

WPC Chancel Choir

**GREETERS**

9:30am Bill Riffer, Anne Nordin

11:00am Karen Annoni, Susan White

**USHERS**

9:30am Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, Linda Stewart, Tony Annoni

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Pat Murray, Rick Murray, Rebecca Caprio

**LITURGIST**

Gary Davis

**SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

Melody Dillon

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST**

*Jim Carey*

**\*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Godwin Jones, Sylvia Jones, Ellen Jones

**\*WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Paul Hotinger and Ray Whitney

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS:** Matt Slack and John Schoenberger

\*Satellite campuses



≈ WPC Elders, Deacons & Staff ≈

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2025, 2026, 2027

**Moderator:** John E. Morgan

**Clerk of Session:** Diane Schwarz

**Administration:** Faith Shartzter\* (25), Sarah Houghland (25), Margie Newcomer (26), Larry Pulley (26)

**Christian Education:** Sallie McLain\* (25), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), JD Due\* (26), Kathryn Hall (27)

**Christian Outreach:** \* Jim Winthrop\* (25), Joseph Kinard (27)

**Communications:** Ellen Peters (27)

**Facilities:** Dale Trowbridge\* (25), Jerry Howell (26), Ric Cheston (27)

**Resources:** Elaine McBeth (25), Jay Eaton (26), Marc Moyers (27)

**Worship:** Becky Mckinley\* (27)

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Hank Vernon\* (25), Jim Austin (26), Joseph Kinard (26), Martha Squires (27), Al Thomas\* (25)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: CLASS OF 2024-25

**Moderator:** Jerry Howell\*, Ric Cheston\*\*, Roban Graham, Ellen D'Orsogna, Jay Hardy, Dave McLain, Bev Whitley

*\*Moderator*

*\*\*Second Chair*

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2025, 2026, 2027

**Moderator:** Copper Perry (25) **Vice-Moderator:** Eric Beckhusen (26)

**Pastoral Advisor:** Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

**Secretary:** Jo Ann Youhas (25)

CARE TEAMS

**Care Connections:** Harold Herring (25), Jennifer LaDow (26), Suzanne Stuart (27)

**Grief:** Copper Perry (25), Bev Whitley (27)

**Brookdale and Other Asst. Living:** Robin Sabo (26)

**Patriot's Colony:** Sue Rennagel (25)

**Williamsburg Landing:** Doris Gilfillan(26), Carolyn Lodzieski (26)

**Windsor Meade:** Happy Simmons (25), Martha Burian (26)

MINISTRY TEAMS

**Celebrations and Concerns:** Sarah Horner (25), Laura Osman (27)

**Christian Fellowship:** Happy Simmons (25), Sue Rennagel (25), Sarah Dulaney (25), Jim Carey (27)

**Flower Sharing:** Laura Bechtler (25): Leigh Sutherland (26), Carol Thomas (26)

**New Member:** Deborah Rockafellow (25), Eric Beckhusen (26), Rodney Lawrence (27)

**Memorial Receptions:** Rebecca Caprio (26), Jo Ann Youhas (25), Karen Lauritzen (27), Julia Smith (27)

**Memorial Services:** Ford Mosely (27), Jack Lassiter (27), Kathy Chambers (27), Dave Littell (25)

STAFF

**Pastoral Staff:** John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff; Pam Hrcir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

**Program Staff:** Melody Dillon, Director of Children and Family Ministries; Adrian Williams, Director of Youth, Campus, and Adult Ministries

**Music Staff:** Chris Bechtler, Director of Music; Norman Elton, Organist, Assistant Director of Music; Rebecca Elton, Carol Choir Director

**Administrative Staff:** Stephen Foster, Director of Finance and Administration; Vanessa Gamble, Church Secretary; Martha Reier, Administrative Assistant; Sherry Volk, Director of Communications; Barbara Walker, Accounting Assistant

**Facility Staff:** Elbert Fleming, Facility Manager; Hugh Jamerson, Sexton

**Audio Booth:** John Schoenberger, Technician

## ✧ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ✧

**Children are welcome at WPC!** We have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during both services. We also have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

## ✧ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ✧

- **In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.**
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

## ✧ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ✧

To share a joy or concern, please visit [www.mywpc.org](http://www.mywpc.org), select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: Jo Ann Youhas ([handbellringer2@gmail.com](mailto:handbellringer2@gmail.com)). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

**If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.**

**Sunday, January 12 – Saturday, January 19**

Pastor John E. Morgan • [jmorgan@mywpc.org](mailto:jmorgan@mywpc.org) • 757-903-7800

**The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:**

- The families of WPC who have lost beloved family members or friends recently.

**Please pray for our sick and shut-in:**

- Michelle, daughter of Ellen and Gene D'Orsogna, Denny Yeignst, Bob Siclari, Carol Sorensen, George Harris, Lee Beach, Clara Crumbly, Wolf Koenig, Nell Stowe, Doris Gilfillan, Carole McNeel

**Please pray for those:**

- Recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, Lebanon and Ukraine.

## 🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor, is attending continuing education through **January 28, 2025????**.
- **MLK Service: The annual gathering of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia commemorating the life and ministry of The Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, 6901 Newport Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia. Please sign up in the welcome center if you would like to carpool. If we have enough Pastor John will drive the church bus.**
- **Preschool Dance and Play Winter Session:** We are having so much fun with our preschoolers during these Wednesday afternoon sessions that it's time to do it again! This class is an excellent way to invite new families into the building and cultivate community between parents of young children. The next session will run January 15 - March 19, on Wednesdays at 1:30pm in Room 130. Children can be registered online at [mywpc.org/danceandplay](http://mywpc.org/danceandplay). Registration deadline is January 8.
- **Children aged 4 through 5th grade are invited to join King's Kids Worship Dance with Melody Dillon beginning this January!** Learn some fundamentals of dance and ways that dance can be an expression of worship, and prepare a dance together for Children's Sunday on March 16. **This group will meet each Thursday from 5:30-6:00pm, following Children's Choir through March 13.** Registration is not required, but please reach out to Melody with questions and to let her know you're coming!
- **Grief Journey Group:** Pam will facilitate a six-week grief journey group beginning the week of January 20th. This group is for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one recently or not recently (it doesn't matter how long it has been since the loss). Please let Pastor Pam know if you are interested. A day and time will be determined by participants' schedules.
- **New Volunteer Seminar Sunday, January 26.** The Hunger & Homeless team of WPC's Outreach Ministry invites all interested to learn more about volunteer opportunities in our community with Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army. Learn about the missions and needs of these two vital organizations, how WPC continues to support them, and how you can connect. The seminar is offered in Room LL049 during both the 9:30 and 11am worship services, allowing you to attend the service and worship at your preferred time. Registration is appreciated, either online at [mywpc.org/Jan26](http://mywpc.org/Jan26) or the table in the back lobby. Contact Jan Russell\* with any questions.
- **Our next New Member Orientation Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.** Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become a part of this church community, reach out to Pastor Pam ([phrcir@mywpc.org](mailto:phrcir@mywpc.org)) after the service.
- **The Flower Calendar for 2025 has 1 openings, November 30.** The Master Flower Calendar for 2025 is in the back of Stevenson Hall. Please fill in the information by the date of your choice. Please contact Ruth Cobb\* if you would like more information.
- **The Peninsula Presbyterian Basketball Fellowship is a weekly pickup basketball game.** This is envisioned as an opportunity for any Presbyterian or Presbyterian-affiliated people to get together and run the court for good exercise and competition. We'll gather and play each week on Sunday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30pm at Hidenwood Presbyterian Church's indoor court. Anyone who is interested can call or text Rev. Boone Clayton (Assoc. Pastor at Denbigh United) with any questions at 703-220-2451.

Contact information can be found in our online directory.

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at [mywpc.org/news/](http://mywpc.org/news/) or on the church calendar.

∞ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ∞

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12**

**Winter Shelter Begins at WPC**

- 9:30am-12pm Nursery open during both worship services  
9:30am Sunday School / Christian Education Wing  
9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access  
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com  
5:30pm Youth Progressive Dinner / Off-site

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13**

**Winter Shelter continues**

- 1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123  
5:00pm Hunger and Homeless Meeting / Rm 227  
5:30pm Christian Education Ministry Meeting / Rm 220  
6:30pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

**Winter Shelter continues**

- 8:00pm Organ Tuning  
10:00am Adult Bible Study—Christian Believer: Knowing God with Heart and Mind / Rm 220  
1:00pm Staff Meeting-In-Person / Stevenson Hall  
2:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting / Rm 220  
6:00pm Stephen Ministry Meeting/Training / Rm 220  
6:30pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 5-Eunice / Rm 222  
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

**Winter Shelter continues**

- 1:30pm Preschool Dance & Play / Rm 123 and Rm 125  
6:00pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Room  
7:00pm Administration Ministry Meeting / Room 220  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

**Winter Shelter continues**

- 9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning  
4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm  
5:00pm Christian Outreach Ministry Meeting / Rm 220  
5:30pm King's Kids Worship Dance / LL049

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

**Winter Shelter continues**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

**Winter Shelter ends**

- ODCS Organist Practice / Sanctuary

∞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ∞

**January 19, 2025 • 25th Sunday after Epiphany • Family Sunday**  
Pastor John's sermon, "Steadfast Love" will be based on Psalm 36:5-10.