



Service for the Lord's Day

Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

10:00 a.m.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence

Prelude "Home by Another Way" James Taylor <https://youtu.be/nX6aPdx9btY>

Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Baptized to begin lives of faith,

Many: **we would witness to all you do in our midst and in your world.**

One: Baptized to serve,

Many: **we would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.**

One: Baptized to speak,

Many: **we would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.**

One: Baptized to do justice,

Many: **we would not play favorites, but treat each person as Your Beloved.**

One: Let us worship the One who loves us, the Beloved!

Opening Hymn "Down to the River to Pray" Allison Krause
<https://youtu.be/zSif77IVQdY>

***The Prayer of Confession**

One: Let us pray... We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light.

Many: **Amen.**

The Words of Reconciliation

Friends, The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. We have been redeemed and called by name as the Beloved of God. Rejoice, and believe, friends, this is the Good News of our Lord! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

The Scripture

Matthew 2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel,

for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

Many: We give thanks to God!

The Reflection

Epiphany

Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

<http://ocpchurch.com/files/135488364.pdf>

We Respond to God's Love

The Renewal of Baptism Vows and Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Hear these words from Holy Scripture: "Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27) Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, to remember your baptism and the promises we make when we baptize, as we reaffirm our faith, witnessing in word and water to what we believe:

ALL: 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...claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation, and calls men and women 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.

Pastor: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Parent, Child, and Spirit.

Many: Amen.

The Special Music "Wade in the Water" Sweet Honey in the Rock
<https://youtu.be/RRpzEnq14Hs>

The Pastoral Prayer

Let us pray... God of life and death We pray for those who are facing the end of life with fear. May they come to know that your love reaches out to enfold even in death.

We pray for those, and we are many, who find it hard to accept ourselves the way we are and choose to hide behind the masks of possessions and power. Help us to risk living with a little less of these and to look at ourselves without fear through your eyes of love.

We pray for those in our world for whom it always seems winter, who have no hope of the warmth and brightness of a spring just around the corner. Those who have no food, no home, no money, no work. Help us to find ways to share what we have with them.

God of creation, we pray for your world teetering on the brink of a long bitter winter brought about by human neglect. Help us to work to restore a balance. Help us to rediscover and observe the rhythms of creation which you wisely put into place. So that spring will follow winter and autumn, summer and all may enjoy the fruits of your good creation.

We pray for our congregation as we face the challenges of the future and look for your will for us. Help us to run the risk of losing things which we hold as precious so that we are more able to reach others with your good news. Help us to be wise in deciding what, if anything, to discard, what new vision, if any, we should pursue. Help us trust you for the new spring life which can flow out into our community.

Amen.

We Depart to Do God's Will

Closing Hymn "Amazing Grace" Soweto Gospel Choir <https://youtu.be/ZoJz2SANTyo>

The Sending Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: Baptized, let us go to live in faith bringing healing to the broken, offering God's compassion and comfort to those who grieve, feeding the hungry, giving shelter to the homeless, and working tirelessly for God's peace and justice together. Beloved children of God, let us go to share the love, compassion, and mercy of the One who names and claims us. Go in peace. And all God's people said: Amen!

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: Lectionary Liturgies by Rev. Thom Schuman and the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA).

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

Due to the uncertainty of the winter weather, the Session voted to move worship to all-virtual through the end of February 2021. Pastor Scott, with the assistance of Sam Marrese-Wheeler, will be filming from the sanctuary for these worship services. As we are able, we are hoping to add some music. **Communion will be served on Sunday, February 7.** As we have been doing, on Communion Sundays and Christmas Eve, we invite you to have some form of bread and beverage with you.

January 17 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – Pastor Scott will be live-streaming worship on January 17 from the sanctuary via the OCPC Facebook page and over our YouTube channel.

NEW! Donate to our church, Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge, using the app, **Give+**. Search for “GivePlus Church” in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it’s installed, find us using our zip code (53523), and set up one-time or recurring payments, OR use the QR Code below to access our donor page. A link to our donor page is also on our website www.ocpchurch.com. (Click on the button with the green heart) Thank you!





JANUARY 2021 Update

Hello to all,

Below is a "wish list" for the food pantry. We would be grateful if you could continue to encourage your congregations, neighbors and friends to give what they can. There is a donation bin outside of the lower level doors of the middle school/food pantry entrance for non-perishable food items. Anyone wishing to donate perishable foods can contact me directly either by phone or email and I will make arrangements to accept those donations. Monetary donations continue to be the most needed and most efficient way to support the food pantry at this time.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Cambridge Food Pantry.

I hope you all remain healthy and safe.

Kindest regards,

Kerry Marren 608-423-8142 foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us www.cambridgecap.net

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST: Hearty Soups, Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, Beefaroni), Canned or packet tuna, Heat and serve complete meals (non-refrigerated/shelf stable), Individual cereal boxes/bowls, Individual oatmeal packets, Saltines, Ramen, Shampoo and conditioner, Laundry soap, Dish soap.

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Betsy (friend and caretaker of Ken Bilstad) Cards can be sent c/o Ken at 230 Bilstad Rd.
Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohmusch)
Ron Guthery (father of Michelle Wagner)
Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)
Sylvia Jensen
Linda Johnson (mother of Randy Johnson)
Jayne Kilian (daughter of Judy Pearson)
Nancy Kristiansen
Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)
Stan Lund
Renee Roland Johnson
Marilyn Schuster (PO Box 310, Cambridge, WI 53523-0310)
Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)
John "Jack" Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

The families of Mark Olson on the death of his wife, Mary; Judy Brandt and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2021: Ann Febock, Melanie Rumpf

Class of 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2021: Judy Schroeder, Cheryl Stitz

Class of 2022: Cheryl Bettenhausen

Class of 2023: Judy Pearson, Mare Stewart

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Emily Rausch,
Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

