

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

### PRELUDE

“Largo in G”

George Frederick Handel

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marcus Little

### PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*We greet one another with signs and words of peace.*

### SONG OF CENTERING

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of G major (one sharp). The melody is in the Treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the Bass clef. The lyrics are written below the Treble staff.

*Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.*  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

*Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!*  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Liturgist: Come, beloved of God, the Spirit is calling us.

**ALL: We come to the waters, seeking renewal and life.**

Liturgist: The heavens open, and the Spirit descends like a dove.

**ALL: We hear God's voice, declaring love and belonging.**

Liturgist: In baptism, we are united with Christ and one another.

**ALL: In the Spirit, we are made one family, diverse and beloved.**

Liturgist: Come, let us worship the God who breathes life into all creation.

**ALL: We come to worship, ready to receive the Spirit's life-giving power.**

Liturgist: Let us pray....

Holy Spirit, Breath of God, you hovered over the waters at creation and descended like a dove at Christ's baptism. Today, you call us to the waters again, to be renewed, transformed, and united as one body in Christ.

As we reflect on your life-giving presence, remind us of your embrace, like that of a loving mother, drawing us together in all our beautiful diversity. Strengthen us to live into the unity you call us to – a unity not of sameness but of shared purpose and love.

Come, Holy Spirit, move among us now. Stir our hearts, open our ears, and center our minds that we may worship you in spirit and truth. In Christ's name we pray.

**ALL: Amen.**

## SONG OF GATHERING

"Mark How the Lamb of God's Self Offering"

NCH#167

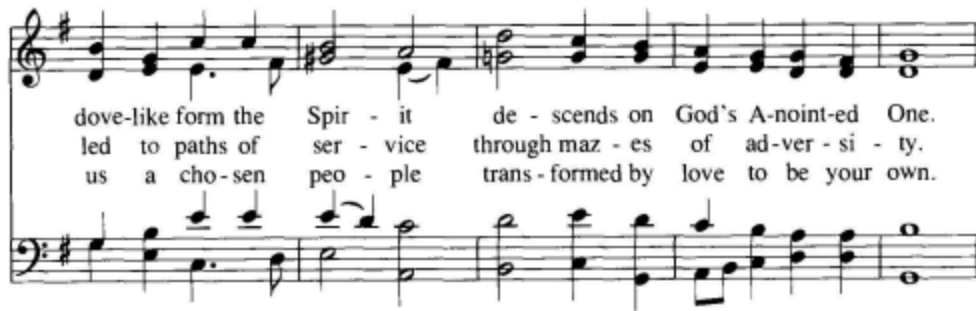
The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes).

1 Mark how the Lamb of God's self - of - fering our hu - man  
2 From this as - sur - ance of God's fa - vor Je - sus goes  
3 Grant us, O God, the strength and cour - age to live the

sin - ful - ness takes on In the birth - wa - ters of the Jor - dan  
to the wil - der - ness, There to en - dure a time of test - ing  
faith our lips de - clare; Bless us in our bap - tis - mal call - ing;

as Je - sus is bap - tized by John. Hear how the voice from heav - en  
that read - ied him to teach and bless. So we, by wa - ter and the  
Christ's roy - al priest - hood help us share. Turn us from ev - ery false al -

thun - ders, "Lo, this is my be - lov - ed Son." See how in  
Spir - it bap - tized in - to Christ's min - is - try, Are of - ten  
le - giance, that we may trust in Christ a - lone: Raise up in



*The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.*

## FIRST READING

Liturgist

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectations, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah," John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*Silence is Observed*

**ALL: Holy Spirit, we confess that at times we do not make space for all that you wish to do in our lives and church. We invite you in this moment of remembrance to fill us with all the fullness of Christ so that we might be marked by your abundant fruit. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven.  
Rejoice! You are loved! Amen.

## BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

One: God be with you!

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to God!**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Let us pray....

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.*

### COMMUNION HYMN

"Come, Gather in This Special Place"

NCH#335

1 & 4 Come, gath - er in this spe - cial place; the ta - ble here is  
 2 The grapes have yield - ed es - sence pure, a drink to quench the  
 3 The bread is fresh - ly baked to - day, a fra - grant feast of

long and wide; For all who heed com - mu - nion's call, there's  
 grav - est thirst; The cup is passed from hand to hand, and  
 grain sup - plied; And e - ven crumbs that dust our palms will

room for thou - sands side by side.  
 each will sense de - spair re - versed.  
 leave souls ful - ly sat - is - fied.

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING DISMISSAL

Gospel Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus". Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

"What Do You See?"

Marcus Little

## SONG OF RESPONSE

"Baptized in Water"

1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,  
chil - dren: joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing,

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*During this time of Prayer, the names of those who have died in the past will be lifted up.*

## OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## OFFERING

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Pastor

*Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.*

## THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

## OFFERTORY

### Doxology

All crea-tures lift your prais-es high! Praise God in earth and sea and sky;

in one great chor-us, all your days. Cre - a-tor, Christ, and Spi - rit praise. A-men.



CHARGE

Liturgist

Liturgist: Go out into the world and trust in the faithfulness of God.

Speak truth. Sing songs of praise. Embody compassion. Live simply,  
love recklessly.

Transform the world through the power of hope.

**People: We go in peace to love and serve God in the name of Jesus Christ.**

SONG OF PARTING

"How Firm a Foundation"

NCH#407

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go.  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Promenade from *Pictures at an Exhibition*"

Modest Musorgsky