



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

January 12, 2025

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)

RINGING OF THE BELL

Bo Morton

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kristi Button

Leader: On that first day, when time began:

People: You gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.

Leader: On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

People: You spoke of life for all Your children, as Your child stepped into the waters of forgiveness, dancing in hope with his cousin, John.

Leader: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

People: You call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to You, Your voice claiming us as Your own.

Unison: With joy and gratitude, let us worship the living and loving God!

HYMN # 263 (verses 1, 2, 3)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Glory to God

Words by Edward Perronet and John Rippon; Music by Oliver Holden

**All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*seated, unison*)

Amanda McDonald

Loving God, You cast light into sin's dark places and call us Your beloved. Forgive us when we still linger in the shadows; when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak ill of Your people. As Jesus knelt in the waters of the Jordan, You proclaimed Jesus as Your Child, pointing to Him as the way to You. Forgive us when we put ourselves ahead of Him; when we think He is no longer needed; when we fail to see Him in the broken of our world. Baptized and blessed in Your living waters, You would have us be Your servants in our world. Forgive us when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, and the little..... (*silent confession*) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Stewart Smith

ANTHEM

Ancient Words
Lynn DeShazo

FUPC Choral Interns

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world
they resound with God's own heart Oh, let the ancient words impart
Words of life, words of hope Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, wherever we roam ancient words will guide us home

Ancient words, ever true changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts Oh, let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice Oh, heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart Oh, let the ancient words impart

Ancient words, ever true changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts Oh, let the ancient words impart

Ancient words, ever true changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts Oh, let the ancient words impart

Ancient words, ever true changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts Oh, let the ancient words impart

We have come with open hearts
Oh, let the ancient words impart

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.'

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison. ²¹ Now

when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² 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.'

SERMON

Fully Committed to the Water

Rev. Stewart Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Amanda McDonald

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison)

We believe that in baptism the Spirit demonstrates and confirms God's promise to include us and our children in God's gracious covenant, cleansing us from sin, and giving us newness of life, as participants in Christ's death and resurrection. Baptism sets us in the visible community of Christ's people and joins us to all other believers by a powerful bond. In baptism we give ourselves up in faith and repentance to be the Lord's. For both children and adults, baptism is a reminder that God loves us long before we can love God. For both, God's grace and our response to it are not tied to the moment of baptism, but continue and deepen throughout life.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your grace. **You hear our prayers.**

Kristi Button

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Stewart Smith

***HYMN 743**

O God, You Are My God (Step by Step)
Words and Music by David Strasser

Glory to God

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Stewart Smith

POSTLUDE

**As we go, may Your Spirit go before us, as we go, may we follow where You lead.
May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,
And be a light unto the world as we go.**

Participants

Interim Senior Pastor – Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder – Isaac Thomas

Choral Interns - Ceci Allen, Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Isabelle Pennick, Verna Labitad, and Will Trotter-Wright

Audio/Visual Team - Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker

Worship Band: Rob Button, Dennis Brewer, Don Steinkraus, Jeffrey Kerst

Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator – Lee Pendley

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