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Gathering those who fear they are not enough,  
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.

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Baptism of Jesus, Bazile Castera Mural in Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

## Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

*I remind you that there are churches so completely out of the hands of God that if the Holy Spirit withdrew from them, they wouldn't find it out for many months.*

– A.W. Tozer

## Prelude

*Consecration*

Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

## Welcome

### \* Song #411 (sung twice)

*God Is Here Today*

God is here to - day; as cer - tain  
Dios es - tá a - quí, tan cier - to co - mo el

(A7) (D) (D7) (G)  
B7 E E7 A

as the air I breathe, as cer - tain  
ai - re que res - pi - ro, tan cier - to co - mo

(A7) (D) (A/C#) (Bm) (D/A)  
B7 E B/D# C#m E/B

as the morn - ing sun that ris - es, as  
la ma - ña - na se le - van - ta, tan

(G) (A7) (D)  
A B7 E

cer - tain when I sing you'll hear my song.  
cier - to co - mo que le can - to y me pue - de o - ír.

Though it is popular throughout Latin America, the conditions of this song's creation have remained obscure. It was once thought to have originated in a Mexican jail but is now known to have been written by an Argentinian who has also lived in the United States and Colombia.

TEXT: Raúl Galeano, 1976; English trans. C. Michael Hawn, 1998  
MUSIC: Raúl Galeano, 1976; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo González, 1999  
English Trans. and Music Arr. © 1999 Choristers Guild

DIOS ESTÁ AQUÍ  
Irregular

*\* Please stand in body or spirit*

## Opening Prayer

The Genesis creation poem has a long history of misinterpretation. Often God is said to have created *ex nihilo* or out of nothing, but the story makes no such claim. The story's claim is neither historical nor scientific, rather it insists that God summons order and life into existence out of chaos. God will be known and will act through God's powerful speech.

Mark's Gospel is the oldest of the four and is used by both Matthew and Luke their primary source material. Mark introduces Jesus full grown, with no apparent interest in Jesus's origins or his life prior to his baptism. For Mark, the story begins with John and baptism.

## Scripture

Genesis 1:1-5

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

Mark 1:4-11

*<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."  
<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## Reflection

James Sledge

# Offering Gifts and Song #164

## Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road-ways a strang-er trav-eled on  
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav-ens torn;  
 3 We too have found a road-way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John.  
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
 The ho - ly dove de-scend-ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

When reviewing baptismal resources with other members of the United Church of Canada's Working Unit on Worship, the author was struck by how few hymns had been written for adult baptism. This meditative text on the Baptism of Jesus is an effort to remedy that situation.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

MUSIC: John D. Horman, 1998

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 1998 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

WEST MAIN

7.6.7.6.D

(alternate tune: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN)

## Minute for Ministry

Welcome Table

Gail Robarge

## Prayers of the People

Jay Campbell

*The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council). Following each petition, we will sing the following response.*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1982  
Text and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS  
Irregular

### *Prayers of gratitude*

For the birth of Cristobal Matias Leiva Acheson, daughter of Kelly Acheson and Carlos Leiva Burotto, and grandson of Patsy and Nick Acheson, on Dec. 22

### *Prayers of concern*

Gordon Storr, hospitalized at Inova Fairfax

Sarah Darden, daughter of Louise Phillips and Tom Koger, who tested positive for Covid-19. Prayers also for Sarah's husband, Kenneth, and their children.

Jay Campbell and family on the death of Jay's father, Chuck Campbell, on Dec. 26

Nancy Lundien, in hospice care

Educators, administrators, and students, as they face the challenges of online learning during the pandemic

Those who have lost jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic

Staff and residents of elder care facilities everywhere

First responders, health care providers, caregivers, essential employees, and all who put their lives at risk during the coronavirus pandemic

### *Continued prayers*

Kris Barth, Brenda Buchly, Avery Burns, Allan Capon, Bobbie Conlan, Judy Cornier, Soledad Cuzzi, Sgt. John R. Goldsmith, Steve Graff, Mike Hugo, Linda Issaacson, Nora Long, Rusty Lynn, Sandy Martin, Juan Mendoza, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Cort Peret, Laura Rainey, Stanley Rusher, Albert Schmid, James Steele, Cathy Stewart, Lawson Swift, Doris Webb, Doris Williams, Charles Wirth, Christa Young

## Communion of the People

### Invitation to the Table, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and the Lord's Prayer

**ALL:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. 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.

### Communion Song #530

*One Bread, One Body*

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of  
all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.  
And we, though man-y, through-out the  
earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

TEXT and MUSIC: John B. Foley, SJ, 1978  
Text and Music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ (Published by OCP)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY  
Irregular


## Post-Communion Prayer

\* Song #291 (vv. 1 and 4)


*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

*Refrain*







val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the e -  
 law and a land. When they were con - found -  
 whole world was still. And down in the cit -  
 cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -



ons you called to each thing, "A -  
 ed with i - dols and lies, then you  
 y, you called once a - gain when you  
 sions; our men clear their eyes. With



wake from your slum - bers and  
 spoke through your proph - ets to  
 blew through your peo - ple on the  
 bold new de - ci - sions your



rise on your wings."  
 o - pen their eyes.  
 rush of the wind.  
 peo - ple a - rise.

As the author/composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

TEXT: James K. Manley, 1975, alt.  
 MUSIC: James K. Manley, 1976  
 Text and Music © 1978 James K. Manley

SPIRIT  
 Irregular

## Our Life Together as the Body of Christ

### The Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you,  
 everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

*All songs used by permission under OneLicense.net #A-721003*



## Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader	Jay Campbell
Audio/Video	Diane Maloney
Music	Lisa Bloy, piano; Andrew Jonas, tenor; David Schoonover, baritone
Fellowship Hall Flowers	The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ann Cardinal, mother of Theresa Cardinal Brown.

## A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. We welcome all to our live-stream community, and hope that you will join us in song and prayer from the safety of your own homes. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please [visit our church website](#).

*Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”*

The Rev. James Sledge, Pastor  
Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement  
Noah Clark, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry  
The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate  
The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate  
David Schoonover, Music Coordinator  
Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

## This Week at FCPC

January 10-17, 2021

### ONLINE WORSHIP AND MEETINGS

**Story Time Online** – Sunday at 8:30 a.m. [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

**Worship Service** – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Join us for online worship at [www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream](http://www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream) or on our [FCPC Facebook page](#).

**Fellowship Time** – Immediately following worship. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#)

**Tuesday Morning Prayer** – Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

**Saturday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Group** – Saturday at 8:00 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0316 4309](#) Passcode: morning

**Story Time Online, Sunday at 8:30 a.m.** Join Mrs. Burns for some fireside reading in the library. This Sunday, you will hear stories about the wise men, or Magi, who visited Jesus after his birth. Story time videos are prerecorded and will go live Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Tune in Sunday morning or any time after at this link: [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

**Join us for virtual Fellowship Time** immediately following worship. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#). This week's host is Marsha Schuyler, who will pose this question to get the conversation started: *What brings a smile to your face?* Anyone is welcome to host Fellowship Time! Learn more [here](#) and sign up [here](#).

**Outdoor Evening Prayer for Hope and Healing, Jan. 10.** Join us at 6:30 p.m. in the front parking lot for a time of prayer. There will be several readings and prayers with Taizé musical responses. There will be no reflection or communion this week. Wear a mask and bring a lawn chair or listen from your car radio at 96.9 FM.

**2021 Offering Envelopes.** If you would like to pick up your 2021 offering envelopes from the church, please contact [Mary Salpini](#). Members can continue to use [online giving](#) or simply mail a check to the church without an offering envelope.

**The Christmas Joy Offering** provides assistance to current and retired church workers in time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. In normal times, you would find this special offering envelope in the pews. This year, you may send a check (made out to FCPC and marked "Christmas Joy") to the church or give online [here](#). Learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering [here](#).

**Minute for Ministry.** In case you missed it, the December 27th Minute for Ministry was brought to you by the Good family, who shared why they love Vacation Bible Camp at FCPC. [Click here](#) to watch the video. You can view more Minute for Ministry videos on our website. [Visit the Giving page](#) and scroll to the bottom.

**Silent Witness Against Racial Injustice, Jan. 16.** Join in silent witness and to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. from noon to 1 p.m. along Broad Street. In his "Letter From a Birmingham Jail," Dr. King wrote: *For years now I have heard the word "wait." It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant "never." It has been a tranquilizing thalidomide, relieving the emotional stress for a moment, only to give birth to an ill-formed infant of frustration.... First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councilor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.*

The time for justice is **now**... the time for direct action is **now**... the time to confront systemic racism is **now**. Wear a mask, bring a sign, and join us on Jan. 16. Questions? Contact [Kevin Ayers](#).

**Drop & Dash, Jan. 16 and 17.** Mercy Ministry is hosting a two-day Drop & Dash event to benefit Knox Food pantry. [Click here](#) to see the current needs at Knox. Wear a mask and drop off items from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19**, and from **9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Dec. 20** at FCPC's Fairfax Street doors. Sign up to help [here](#).

**Welcome Table serves 488 guests on Jan. 6**, thanks to head chef Heather Anderson and 34 additional volunteers. Our next Welcome Table is Jan. 20. Sign up for a volunteer spot [here](#). If you would like to support Welcome Table with a financial contribution, you can mail a check (made out to FCPC with "Welcome Table" in memo line) to the church office or give through FCPC's secure [Online Giving](#) link.

**Generosity update.** As the body of Christ, we are all called to participate in ministries that bear Christ to the world. One of the ways we do this is through our financial gifts. **As of January 8, we have 102 estimates of giving for 2021 totaling \$660,700.** If you have not yet provided your estimate, please take a moment to do so, either online [here](#) or by returning your Estimate of Giving card to the church office, so that we can bear fruit together in this new year. Thank you!

**Crossing Paths submissions needed.** Many of you have told us how much you enjoy receiving Crossing Paths in your inbox each morning, but we are running low on material for future emails. Please consider sharing a prayer, poem, scripture passage, song, or artwork that has inspired you or brought you joy in these difficult days. Submissions should be sent to [Diane Maloney](#).

**God sightings.** You are invited to share a photo that captures a time or place where you have experienced God. Photos submitted by noon each Wednesday will be considered for use at the opening of our virtual worship service. Email images to [Diane Maloney](#).

**Pastoral care during social distancing.** If you or your loved one is in need of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact [James Sledge](#). And if you are at-risk from COVID-19, please let James or the [deacons](#) know if we can offer you support with specific tasks such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or other things that might put you at risk.