WE DO NOT PRESUME to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

... Archbishop Thomas Cranmer
The Book of Common Prayer, 1662

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Chorale Prelude: Our Saviour Christ to Jordan Came

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us by name
All: Come, let us worship God
One: God’s presence is with us
All: Come, let us worship our Creator
One: God takes away our fears
All: Come, let us worship our Redeemer
One: To God belong the glory, power, and might
All: We have come from the East, West, South, and North. We come with hearts of praise. We come to listen for the voice of God.

*indicates all who are able may stand.
Out of deep unordered water, 2. Water on the human forehead,
God created light and land, Birthmark of the love of God.
World of bird and beast and later Is the sign of death and rising,
In God’s image, woman, man. Through the seas there runs a road.
There is water in the river There is water in the river
Bringing life to tree and plant Brining life to tree and plant
Let creation praise its giver Let creation praise its giver
There is water in the font. There is water in the font.

3. Standing round the font reminds us
Of the Hebrews’ climb ashore,
Life is hallowed by the knowledge,
God has been this way before.
There is water in the river
Bringing life to tree and plant
Let creation praise its giver,
There is water in the font.

Text: Fred Kaan, 1965
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*MERCIFUL GOD, You know our muddled motives and our times of defiant disobedience. You understand our weaknesses and our strengths much better than we do. Open our eyes to the truth, no matter how unwelcome it may be for us. Give us spiritual clarity and honesty. Forgive us for all our failings as a church community, and for all our private sins of commission and omission; bless us with your freeing, healing grace. Reinvigorate our lagging spirits and bring under control our willful wants and faithless fears. Rid us of our disabling guilt and self-pitying regret. Let us make a new beginning.

*TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

*KYRIE

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON
**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** *(see music on the insert in this leaflet)*

**HEARING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’,
and to the south, ‘Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.’

**THE PSALTER**

Psalm 29

**Glory**

1. The God of heaven thunders
   Whose voice in cadent echoes
   Resounds above the waters,
   And all the world sings,
   “Glory, glory, glory!”

2. The desert writhes in tempest
   Wind whips the trees to fury,
   The lightning splits the forest
   And flame diffuses
   “Glory, glory, glory!”
3. The mighty God eternal
   Is to the throne ascended,
   And we who are God’s people
   Within these walls cry,
   “Glory, glory, glory!”

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 8:14-17

4 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

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[10] 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.’

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

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 314 Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song Bridegroom

1. Like the murmur of the dove’s song,
   Like the challenge of her flight,
   Like the vigor of the wind’s rush,
   Like the new flame’s eager might;
   Come, Holy Spirit, come.

2. To the members of Christ’s body
   To the branches of the vine,
   To the church in faith assembled
   To her midst as gift and sign:
   Come, Holy Spirit, come.
3. With the healing of divisions,
   With the ceaseless voice of prayer
With the power to love and witness,
   With a peace beyond compare

   Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Text: Carl P Daw, Jr., 1982
Music: Peter Cutts, 1969

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  (Affirming together)  The Apostles’ Creed

I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFT OF MUSIC  Benjamin Britten

A New Year’s Carol

Here we bring new water from the well so clear, For to worship God with, this happy New Year. Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine. Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe, Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go. Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine. Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin, Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in. Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine

SEALING THE WORD

At the time of the Distribution of the EUCHARIST, worshipers are encouraged to use the bread and wine given out as you entered church this morning. Those worshiping at home via the world wide web may use whatever bread and wine are at hand as the food of the Supper. Jesus himself used the left over bread and wine from the Passover Feast to institute the first Eucharist.
So we, too, may use those things closest at hand for this celebration. Christians of any age or church affiliation are welcome at Christ’s table, where Christ himself is the host.

INVITATION

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
COMMUNION PRAYER

SANCTUS

COMMUNION PRAYER and MEMORIAL ACCLAMATIONS

THE CONSECRATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER [praying together]

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.

These are holy things, to keep us holy. Gifts of God for the people of God. Let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright. Drawn by thee our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to Truth unknown. Soaring dying, round thy throne.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 495  We Know That Christ Is Raised  Engelberg

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
    Embraced by death He broke its fearful hold;
    And our despair he turned to blazing joy.
    Alleluia!

2. We share by water in his saving death
    Reborn with him we share an Easter life
    As living members of a living Christ.
    Alleluia!

3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
    The Spirit's power shakes the church of God
    Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
    Alleluia!

4. A new creation comes to life and grows
    As Christ’s new body takes on flesh and blood
    The universe restored and whole, we sing:
    Alleluia!

Text: John Brownlow Geyer, 1969
Music: C. Villiers Stanford, 1904

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION  God Be with You  Ralph Vaughan Williams

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise Clark-Jones, Pastor
Thomas Clark-Jones, Organist-Choirmaster
The Choir of Westminster Church

The most interesting of the musical offerings this morning well may be THE NEW YEAR CAROL set to this charming music by Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976) in 1934. The carol is associated with Pembrokeshire, Wales. There, the song figured in a custom in which, on New Year's Day, children collect fresh water from a well, and go around with a sprig from an evergreen tree, which they use to sprinkle the faces of passers-by with the water while singing the carol and begging for gifts of food or money. Elsewhere in Wales, the custom is called dwr newy, "new water", and the water was also used to sprinkle rooms and doors of houses. This ceremony has a parallel in the Scottish Hogmanay tradition of saining; here water drawn from a "dead and living ford", a ford crossed by both the living and the dead, is sprinkled through the house. The purpose of the rite is to sain, or purify, the house for the new year.

According to musicologist, Trefor Owen, the song preserves "an early well-cult made acceptable to medieval Christianity by its association with the Virgin and perpetuated both by the desire to wish one's neighbor well at the beginning of a new year and by the small monetary payment involved. The meaning of the words "levy-dew" in the original lyrics of the song is not certainly known. One line of speculation holds that the words represent the Welsh phrase ilef y Dduw, "a cry to God". Others connect it to Middle English levedy ("lady"), or to the French phrase levez à Dieu, "raise to God", which may in turn refer to the elevation of the Host in Christian liturgy.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Gloria to God on High, Gloria to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God, and Father; we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father;

receive our prayer. For You are the Holy One, You alone art the Lord, You alone art the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Amen.

... from Service in E-flat
© 2005, Thomas Clark-Jones
All rights reserved

THIS MORNING'S SERVICE is live-streamed over the world-wide web through the technology of You Tube. Permission to both perform and broadcast the music in this service is licensed by One License #A 726060, Chicago, Illinois.
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

9 JANUARY 2022

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA
A Presbyterian Church, USA in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + + + Peoria, Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org