



**“Promises Fulfilled: Promise of the Wilderness”  
Baptism of Our Lord  
January 10, 2021**

**WELCOME**

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

*If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/podcasts/>. DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.*

*If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.*

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**ORDER OF SERVICE    *The assembly speaks the bold verses***

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**Preparing for Worship**

The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

Jesus emerges from the water.

And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

Jesus is named. Claimed.

We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.  
Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.  
Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
**and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
**By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and, above all, we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
**Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Music**      ***"Gathering Hymn"* By Ken Medema** *(to the tune of "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing")*

Out of need and out of custom  
We have gathered here again.  
To the gathering we are bringing  
Love and laughter, grief and pain.

Some believing, some rejoicing,  
Some of faith and some in doubt.  
Come we now, our questions voicing  
We will search these matters out.

Come we now, our masks displaying,  
Fearing that we shall be known.  
Foolish games forever playing,  
Feeling mean while so alone.

Let pretension's power be broken,  
To be human let us dare.  
Let the truth in love be spoken  
As we now the questing share.

We have heard the glowing stories  
Of the things which God has done.  
Of God's grace and of God's glory,  
And of Christ, the Holy One.

God of human transformation  
For your presence now we pray.  
Lead us ever on the journey  
As we gather here today.

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Creator of the universe,  
we stand amazed at your power and glory.  
We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,  
but we are often reluctant to answer  
when we hear you calling our name.  
We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary,  
but shy away from the river,  
lest we be baptized  
with the fire of the Holy Spirit.  
Forgive us when we forget your promise  
to be with us always, O God.  
Renew us with the power of your ever-present love,  
and strengthen us to proclaim your justice  
throughout the world. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for individual confession and reflection.*

Hear the words of our creator,  
spoken through the prophet Isaiah:  
"I have called you by name.  
You are mine. Do not fear,  
for I have redeemed you."

### **Greeting**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly God,

With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Psalm        Awe and Wonder (Psalm 29) - Richard Bruxvoort Colligan**

Awe and wonder We're in awe and wonder in your glory Ah

Awe and wonder We're in awe and wonder in your glory Ah

Your voice o'er the mighty waters

Your voice in majesty

Right now in the storm and earthquake

Give us your strength and peace

Give us your strength and peace

## **Gospel Reading        *Luke 3:1-22***

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

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

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>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."

## **Message**

*Pastor Andrea Fluegel*

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray, Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by the water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

### **Profession of Faith   *Nicene Creed***

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Affirmation by the Assembly**

You have made a public profession of your faith.  
Do you intend to continue in the covenant  
God made with you in holy baptism:  
To live among God's faithful people:  
To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper  
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed  
To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?  
**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?  
**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**Let us pray.**

We give thanks, O God,  
That through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,  
Cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.  
Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:  
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The spirit of counsel and might,  
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
The spirit of joy in your presence,  
Both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Music            "Just One Candle" – Music and Words by David LaMotte  
                         Words of Refrain by St. Francis of Assisi**

**And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle.  
All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle**

## **Prayers of the People**

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness  
And bears the wounds of the world.  
Therefore, let us be bold as we pray,  
Trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in your beloved Son. As in his name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making. Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you are Lord of our beginnings and our endings and all that lies between. We praise you: for how you have poured out upon us blessing after blessing; for how you have reached out to us; for how you have come to us; for how you have spoken to us. Help us to live the faith you have given us. Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

**And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle**

For the congregation gathered here physically and at home, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace. Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

God of grace and glory,  
We pray for those who suffer from pains and sorrows.  
We pray for those whose hearts are broken.  
We pray for those whose families are fractured.  
We pray for those whose lives are ravaged by war.  
We pray for those who struggle with poverty and starvation  
We pray for our brother and sisters in Christ  
who are being martyred and tortured for their beliefs.  
Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behavior and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew dear Lord. Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

**And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle**

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers, care givers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and in particular (*insert names*), and others whom we name in our hearts... (*brief silence*)  
Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations. Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

O loving God, you know the needs of all the world. By your Spirit, grant that we, having turned to you in prayer, now might turn to one another in peace, tend and keep those you have made, and love our neighbor with the love of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle  
All the darkness  
in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle**

#### **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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **Music**                    *"There's A Love that Seeks Us"*

There's a love that seeks us,  
love that will not leave us,  
knows our deepest longing,  
drives away our fear.

There's a God who holds us,  
lovingly enfolds us;  
we will lack for nothing,  
trusting he is near.

*Our God, you're wonderful,  
your love will never fail,  
your goodness follows us through all our days.  
Our God, you're wonderful  
your love forever will be with us.*

There's a love that guides us,  
walks the road beside us,  
comforting, providing,  
showing us the way.  
Love will light the darkness,  
where the valley's deepest,  
lead us through the shadows  
to a resting place.

### **Blessing**

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

May the blessing of the three-in-one God be yours.

May the Spirit bless you with hope  
poured out like water and flowing as the river.

May Jesus bless you with discomfort  
at injustice and oppression.

May God in whose being beauty shines on you  
and journey with you.

God says to you, "you are my beloved,  
be blessed this day and always."

**Amen.**

### **Sending**

Gathered by Grace.

**Sent to Serve.**

**Thanks be to God!**

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Psalm hymn words and music by: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, "Awe and Wonder,"

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Call to Worship, "Baptism of Christ," written by Caela Wood, Pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas. Jan 6, 2020

Confessions and Forgiveness, posted on the Ministry Matters website by Laura Jaquith Bartlett.  
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>; JAN 7, 2013.

Prayers of the People, written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home page.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/10BAPTIS.htm> and written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild (altered slightly). Posted on his Kirshalom website and written by Rev Abi, and posted on the RevGalBlogPals website and from the Lutheran Church of Australia Dec 27, 2011.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone**

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

### **Volunteer for the Weekend Backpack Program**

Please sign up to help with the Weekend Backpack Program. Volunteers are needed weekly to continue this ministry. Contact the church office or visit the website to sign up. We are feeding 133 children each week through this program plus are feeding an additional 100 children through in-school pantries!

### **Volunteer to Pick Up Weekend Backpack Totes**

We need a person(s) to pick up the plastic totes at Eagle River Elementary School on Tuesdays (preferably in the morning) and bring them to Prince of Peace. It is a contactless pick up. If you are able to assist (preferably on a weekly basis), please contact Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715-891-5975 or at [pastor@princeofpeace-er.org](mailto:pastor@princeofpeace-er.org).

### **Worship DVDs**

DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are now available at POP! They can be mailed or scheduled for pick up by contacting the church office via telephone (715-479-9263).

### **Return to Phase 1**

The Prince of Peace Council has decided to return back to Phase 1 due to the rising number of positive COVID-19 cases and deaths in Vilas and Oneida Counties as well as the number of students being quarantined due to close contact with a positive case in the Northland Pines School District. This means that we are suspending the limited communion worship for the meantime and reducing the number of volunteers for the Backpack Program and for other essential functions of the church. The Church Council continues to reassess what is happening in our local community on a frequent basis. The Oneida and Vilas Health Departments are strongly encouraging people to limit contact with people outside their immediate household, wear face masks/coverings, wash hands, and keep at least 6 feet (or more) distance from others if you need to go outside of your household unit.

### **CURRENT PHASE: 1**

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.  
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,  
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 5030 Highway 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521  
[www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org](http://www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org)