January 16, 2022 – 10:30am  
Springfield Presbyterian Church - Order of Worship - The Baptism of our Lord  
  
Announcements  
   
Lighting the Christ Candle  
Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim:  
**People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.**  
  
Gathering of the People  
Leader: The Lord be with you!  
**People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements]  
  
Call to Worship [Psalm 29 excerpts NRSV]  
Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
**People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**   
Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.  
**People: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**  
Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
**People: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”**  
Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.  
**People: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

Hymn O Day of Rest and Gladness – GtG#393  
   
Call to Confession [1 John 1:8, 9]  
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.  
   
Prayer of Confession  
**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**    
**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**   
Silent Prayers of Confession  
   
Response:    Spirit of the Living God – GtG288  
   
Words of Assurance [Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17]  
Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.  
**People: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Let us know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.**

Response: Glory Be To The Father – GtG581    
  
The Peace  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!  
**People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)  
   
The Proclamation of the Word  
   
Prayer of Illumination  
Let us hear this prayer from Howard Thurman as a way to open ourselves to the Word:  
   
“Lord, open unto me, Open unto me – light for my darkness. Open unto me – courage for my fear.  
Open unto me – hope for my despair. Open unto me – peace for my turmoil. Open unto me – joy for my sorrow. Open unto me – strength for my weakness. Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion.  
Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins. Open unto me – love for my hates. Open unto me – thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.”

*First Scripture Lesson* **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. 2When 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. 3For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6I 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— 7everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

*Second Scripture Lesson* **Luke 3:15-22**

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John 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. 17His 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.” 18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19But 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, 20added to them all by shutting up John in prison.  
21Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22and 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* A Dove Descended  
   
*The Response to the Word*  
  
*\* Hymn*  Down By The Jordan – Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (to the tune of #35)

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| **THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST’S PEOPLE**   **INVITATION** [Luke 2:12; Mic. 5:4] Leader: A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. **People: He will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.** |

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**  
Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
  
It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to service you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to call us back to your way. In the fullness of time you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity,  
Became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Immanuel. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**IN PRAISE OF GOD**  
   
You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility,  
 He came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, He showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, He brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, He welcomed all who sought him.  
In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.  
   
**IN PRAISE OF CHRIST**  
   
**PRAYER**  
Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ’s presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us the courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever, Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**  
When Jesus was at table with his disciples He took bread, blessed it, and broke it, and He gave it to them, saying: Take, eat, whenever you do this, remember me.   
   
In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this, remember me.  
   
Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection until He comes again.

**SHARING OF THE MEAL**  
And so, with the communion that has been provided, we now come together in a spirit of prayer and eat this bread and drink this cup in remembrance of Christ, our Savior.  
   
**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**  
**Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread** **and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven! – GtG#511  
   
Charge and Benediction   
Leader: In the waters of baptism,  
**People: You renew our spirits.**  
Leader: In the bread and wine at your holy table,  
**People: You restore us to new life as we remember your grace.**  
Leader: So now we go from this place renewed and restored by your sacred acts of mercy.  
**People: Let us live as such and be your disciples active in the world. Amen.**   
   
Postlude