

Contemporary Order of Worship  
December 31, 2023  
Worship Series: The Gift of Being Present  
Message: Being Present with Assurance

Gathering                      *Glory (Let There Be Peace)*  
   *Midnight Clear (Love Song)*

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold Moment

\*Lighting of the Christ Candle                      John and Sam Patricola

Reader: Let us pray.

**People: Holy Living Light of God,  
You are our Reassuring Presence.  
Let this assurance grow in our lives each day,  
so we can be a Present of Assurance to others.  
Unwrap and open our hearts. AMEN.**

Service of Baptism                      Noah Walker Boyington

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**People: We do.**

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the Good News  
and live according to the example of Christ.  
We will surround Noah  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that he may grow in his service to others.  
We will pray for him  
that he may be a true disciple  
who walks in the way that leads to eternal life.**

Leader: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: 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.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos,  
you swept across the dark waters  
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah  
you saved those on the ark through water.  
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.  
When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,  
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan  
to the land which you promised.

**People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

Pastor: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,  
nurtured in the water of a womb.  
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.  
He called his disciples  
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection  
and to make disciples of all nations.

**People: Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
to bless this gift of water and he who receives it,  
to wash away his sin  
and clothe him in righteousness  
throughout his life,  
that, dying and being raised with Christ,  
he may share in His final victory.

**People: All praise to You, Eternal Father, through Your Son Jesus Christ,  
who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. AMEN.**

Baptism of Noah

Pastor: Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

**People: Through baptism  
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit  
into God's new creation  
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.  
We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you  
as a member of the family of Christ.**

Baptismal Song *God Claims You*

Children's Moment

Linda Biscardo

Prayer Song *Right Here, Right Now*

Prayers of People

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

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 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. AMEN.**

Offering Song

*Blessed Assurance*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 22-40

Peggy Brown

Message

*Being Present with Assurance*

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

A Covenant Prayer in The Wesleyan Tradition

**I am no longer my own, but Thine.  
Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by Thee or laid aside for Thee,  
exalted for Thee or brought low for Thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Thou art mine, and I am Thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN.**

\*Closing Song

*Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)*

\*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

*Glory (Let There Be Peace)* (Reprise)