

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord Sunday



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Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 12, 2025

11:00 am

Writing in **bold** is for the congregation response.

*Please stand as you are able.

Please silence your phones during worship service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters,

People: And in the temple, God's people say, "Glory!"

Leader: The heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended,

People: And a voice said, "You are my Son, the Beloved."

Leader: Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken,

People: And the Lord said, "I have called you by name; you are mine."

*HYMN 482 "Baptized in Water"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

As we prepare our hearts for worship, there are thoughts that keep coming into our minds, distracting us from focusing on God. Our worries, our fears, the things that upset us, separate us from the peace that surpasses understanding. In hope and faith, we turn those things over to God now as we pray our prayer of confession.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. May we fulfill the promises we made at our baptism, so that we may live together in faith and strive to be the people you created us to be.

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Luke 3)

As a voice from heaven spoke to Jesus, so in Christ, God speaks to us, saying, "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

HEARING THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH MOMENT "This Little light of Mine"

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

ANTHEM "Wind upon the Waters" Marty Haugen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:1-3a (pg. 581)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading Luke 3:21-22 (pg. 830)

Preacher: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

SERMON "For the Love of God" Rev. Kathleen Crighton

* HYMN 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

(cont'd next page)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Avery & Marsh

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(...Now, please be with us as we conclude this time with the prayer, taught to us by
your son, saying...)

**ALL 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.**

*HYMN 300 "We Are One in the Spirit"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

PREACHING: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

LITURGIST: elder, Ted Swartz

PIANIST: Aya Magavina

YOUTH MOMENT: elder, Tim Ruppel

OFFERING: elders, Henry and Diane Kleinfeldt

BELL RINGER: deacon, David Rabinowitz

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Youth will meet this Sunday after church.

FPCNO THIS WEEK

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Monday | 7pm-9pm | “Carrollton” AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday | 9am-11am
7pm-9pm | Program of Hope (setup)
“Big Easy” AA Group | Sanctuary
Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | 9am-10:30am
7pm-9pm | Program of Hope
Disco Amigos | Sanctuary
Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm | MCC | Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday | 10am-2pm | Disco Amigos | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 9:45am -10:15am
10am-11am
11am-12pm | F.P.C Adult Bible Study
M.C.C Sunday Service
F.P.C Sunday Service | Conference Rm.
Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary |





WELCOME VISITORS!

We Are Glad You Are Here

We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place. Here are a few things to get you up to speed.

- If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and/or sign the guest/visitors card located in your bulletin and put in the offering plate. We care about you and want to know who you are.
- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- During the time of the passing of the peace, some may be comfortable with hugs, laughs, and conversation, but others may not. Please be respectful of one another's comfort levels. If you would prefer to maintain a social distance, you may pass the peace by folding your arms, making a peace sign, or whatever is comfortable for you.
- **Great news!** We have resumed having coffee available in the narthex before, during, and after worship. Big thanks to our elder, Henry Kleinfeldt for preparing the coffee! We are also offering snacks. Feel free to donate your favorite kinds and leave them on the table beside the coffee fixings.
- We were the first "More Light" congregation in New Orleans and now are the first congregation to be a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in New Orleans. Which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
- We appreciate the spiritual and financial support your attendance brings. If you wish, you may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service. If you would like to use a credit card or PayPal to make a secure donation to the Program of Hope or the Capital Campaign, you can go to the church's website, www.fpcno.org and click on the links on the right hand side of the home page.

EQUALITY



FOR ALL

Please like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and also follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at <https://x.com/fpcno>.

We don't have an official church newsletter, but you can find updates on our Facebook page (above) and website, www.fpcno.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

504-866-7409 * FAX 504-910-4477

WWW.FPCNO.ORG; FACEBOOK.COM/FPCNO; TWITTER.COM/FPCNO

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

PASTOR

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REVKATHY@FPCNO.ORG

OFFICE MANAGER/LEASING CONSULTANT

CHERYL A. ROBERTS

CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG

CHOIR DIRECTOR

MAY BALL

MUSICIANS:

AYA MAGAVINA-ALVAREZ; AMANDA WADSWORTH

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

DEE BOLING

WEDDINGS@FPCNO.ORG

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

BRUCE MATHER

WEBSITE TECHS:

TERRY RUPPEL; CARRIE FISHER

TECH SUPPORT:

RICHARD TATUM

SEXTON:

(CORVUS JANITORIAL) MRS. KAREN AND MRS. DARNEISA

THE SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION

KEN ALLEN

ASSISTANT CLERK OF SESSION

BRUCE MATHER

CLASS OF 2024

HENRY KLEINFELDT

LYDIA POLLARD

CLASS OF 2025

BRUCE MATHER

CHRISTIE RUPPEL

CLASS OF 2026

ZANE FISHER

TED SWARTZ

PROGRAM OF HOPE DIRECTOR

DIANE KLEINFELDT

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