

Order of Worship Sunday, January 12, 2025 Baptism of the Lord, Year C, Covenant Renewal Sunday  
Hear Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)  
† - Please rise in body or spirit where you see this symbol.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS The waters of God's blessing flow through our lives, quenching our thirst, bringing forth new hope.

## SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is with us always and calls us each by name.

**P: When we pass through difficulties and stress,**

L: God is with us and calls us by name.

**P: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,**

L: God is with us and calls us by name, and heals us.

**P: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.**

### † OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. AMEN.**

### † OPENING HYMN Stand By Me UMH #512 v. 1-4

## BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

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

## JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST – St. James UMC & Sprucetown UMC

## COVENANT RENEWAL HYMN Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine UMH 606

**COMMUNAL PRAYER** O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

L: Let us renew our baptismal vows, embracing the promise of presence, transformation, and community.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

L: Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies. O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

**ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.**

L: You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

**ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.**

L: You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

**ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.**

L: You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

**ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.**

L: You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace.

**ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.**

**SELECTED SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 43:1-7 // Acts 8:14-17 // Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**MESSAGE** Baptism: A Personal Decision, A Communal Journey

**INVITATION**

L: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. ...\*

\*...Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**ALL: Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

L: Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

**ALL: Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

L: Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. ...\*

\*... Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

#### THE COVENANT PRAYER

**ALL: O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.**

L: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**ALL: I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.**

L: Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

**ALL: Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

L: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

**ALL: Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness.**

**I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.**

L: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**ALL: I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.**

L: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**ALL: I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

L: The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

**ALL: O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.**

**O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

† CLOSING HYMN When Jesus Came to Jordan UMH #252

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)

January 12 –Potluck Lunch following worship at Sprucetown. Ad Board/Trustees meet after.

January 15 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC. Contact Paula Smith to learn how to get involved.

January 16 - Ladies Coffee & Conversation for all ladies 9:30am at St. James in Coburn

January 19 – Human Relations Sunday

January 20 – Trinity Trustees and Administrative Board meeting at 7pm. All are welcome. If you are unable to attend, please let Peggy Huey know in advance to assure a quorum. Thank you.

January 22 – Penns Valley Charge Staff Parish Relations Committee 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter meeting 7pm at St. James, 501 Main Street, Coburn.

January 23 – 26 – Pastor Theresa will be on vacation. Pastoral Coverage is forthcoming.

CCLI #1671542 Elements of worship are from Ministry Matters, A Preacher's Guide Lectionary Sermon Series Thematic Plans for Years A B and C, Feasting on the Word, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024.