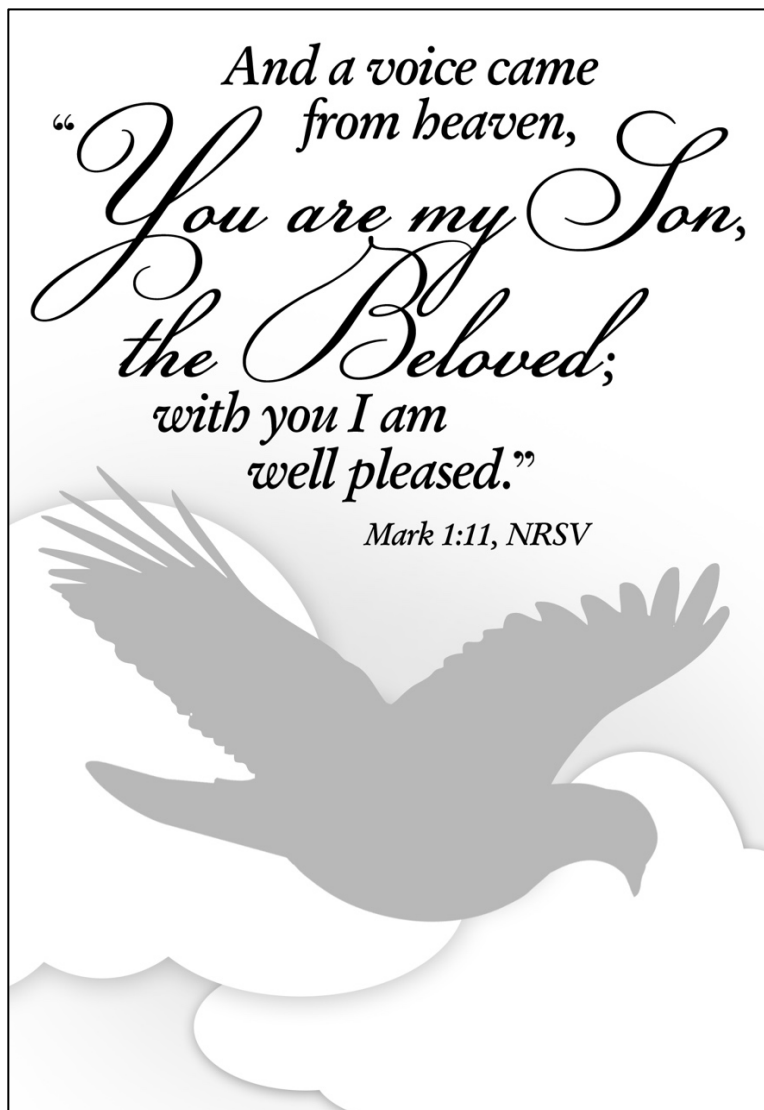




Mountain
Reformed Church

January 7, 2024
Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Your Church for Worship and the Arts!

WORD | CONNECTION | MUSIC

Welcome to Mountain Reformed Church!

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today! The vision of our church is to provide an open door to relationship with God for all through worship, teaching God's Word, and by celebrating with music and the arts. Our mission is simple: All Glory to God! Our church is independent and non-denominational, with a theology based in the reformed way of being Christian. Please see our website at www.mountainreformed.org for more information about our church.

Prayer of Meditation

God of heaven and earth, we gather in the name of Jesus to hear your holy Word and to be immersed in your Spirit. Speak to us with grace and truth and pour out your love upon us so that this temple may resound with joyful shouts of glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MRC Women's Ministry Meetup

The women of Mountain Reformed will meet 1pm on Saturday 1/13 at the home of Beth Wingate. All women are invited and encouraged to attend! If you need further information, please reach out to Lyndi Peacock 928-899-2085 lyndi@milehighlending.com.

Fellowship Brigade: Coffee volunteers needed

The coffee process is now easier than ever with a coffee maker conveniently located in our Event Spot kitchen! If you are interested in serving, please reach out to Beth Wingate 970-456-8763 bbs5829a@gmail.com. The signup sheet is available in the binder where our coffee and snacks are located.

MRC Bulletin and Weekly Email

Would you like to place an announcement in the Sunday bulletin or "This Week at Mountain Reformed Church" email? Please send your info to Ryan Gastonguay at ryan@mountainreformed.org. The deadline is Monday evening of each week for the coming weekend, but we always appreciate as much notice as possible.

Flowers

Sheri Simpson coordinates our Flower Ministry. If you would like to commemorate a special occasion by providing flowers, please ask an usher to guide you to the flower sign-up chart.

MRC Name Badges

If you would like an MRC name badge, please send your name as it should appear to Ryan Gastonguay: ryan@mountainreformed.org and he will have one made.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 7, 2024 – 10:30 AM
Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Gathering

Words of Greeting and Life of the Church

- L: Blessings to you, servants of God.
C: **We lift up our hands and bless the Lord!**
L: This is the day that the Lord has made;
C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prayer of the Day

Prelude

Sweet By and By
(Hymn #605)

arr. Mark Hayes

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

- L: In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.
The Spirit of God
swept over the face of the waters;
then God said: Let there be light,
and God saw that it was good. *Gen. 1:1–2; Mark 1:1, 9–11*
- C: **Arise, shine; for your light has come.** *Isa. 60:1*
Behold the glory of the Lord. Alleluia!
- L: At the beginning of his ministry,
Jesus was baptized by John.
The heavens opened,
and the Spirit descended like a dove;
then God said: This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased.
- C: **Arise, shine; for your light has come.** *Isa. 60:1*
Behold the glory of the Lord. Alleluia!

(Please remain standing)

Opening Hymn #210

*Break Forth, O Beauteous
Heavenly Light*

MEIN SCHWACHER

(Please be seated)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of all glory, Light of the world,
you look from heaven
and see us as we are—
not worthy to kneel at your feet,
not ready to welcome your way.
We confess that we have not resisted the darkness
of sin.**

*Ps. 29:1; Isa. 60:2
Mark 1:7*

**Forgive us, gracious God.
In Christ, stoop down to save us;
loosen the ties that bind us to sin
and set us free to love and serve you.
Awaken in us sincere repentance
that we may shine with the light of your saving grace;
in Jesus' name.**

Isa. 60:2

Isa. 60:5

(Silent Confession)

L: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gloria Patri, Hymn #670

GLORIA PATRI (GRETorex)

Declaration of Pardon

L: Hear the good news of the gospel:
As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,
so God says to each of us:
You are my beloved child,
and with you I am well pleased.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Mark 1:11

C: Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace
(Please be seated)

Anthem

Shines the Light

Lee Dengler

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Coril Prochnow, soprano

Robert MacGimsey

(Please stand as you are able)

Doxology, Hymn #668

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

The Word

The Lesson

Acts 19:1-7 (ESV)

1 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

L: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Illumination

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-15 (ESV)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,
3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight, ’”

4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Choral Response

Like A Dove

Carmine Lappano

Sermon

“A (RE)NEW YOU!”

Pastor Dan Storvick

[sermon outline follows the order of worship]

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day #398

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

Affirmation of Baptism

Those who wish to participate are invited to step forward and gather around the Baptismal Font during the hymn of the day. Please bring your bulletin with you.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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. Amen

P: You have made 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 his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life.

Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen

C: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Please be seated)

Prayers for the People, concluded with The Lord's Prayer in unison:

(words of prayer, each petition followed by)

P: ... Give strength, O Lord,

C: and bless us with peace.

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.

Sending

Charge

Benediction

Response

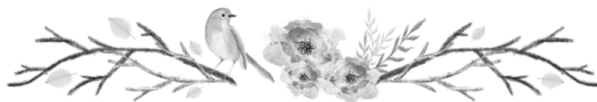
Threefold Amen

L. LARSON

Postlude

This Is My Father's World
(Hymn #46)

arr. Faye López



Flowers today celebrate our baptism in Christ!

Assisting in Worship:

Pianist: Dr. Craig Ralston

Liturgist: Sheri Simpson

Acolyte: Tubal Gastonguay

Ushers: Larry & Shirley Culver

Sound Technician: Fred Williams

Camera Operator: Charlie Simpson

Coffee Fellowship Coordinator: Beth Wingate

Greeter: Karen Thorstad

A (RE)NEW YOU!

Mark 1:4-13

Preparation: Before You Were Even _____ of it, God was working out His plan for you. Mark 1:4, 7-8

John [the Baptist said]. . . : "I am the voice of one calling out in the desert: Make the road straight for the Lord." John 1:23 (NCV)

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart . . . Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)

God had special plans for me and set me apart for his work even before I was born. He called me through his grace. Galatians 1:15 (NCV)

Ask Yourself: What people, gifts, talents, events—haps and mishaps—in my life have brought me to this point, and how can God use them all to His glory and my benefit?

Coronation: In Baptism, God Sets in Motion His _____ for a New You. Mark 1:9

When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and you were raised up with him through your faith in God's power that was shown when he raised Christ from the dead. Colossians 2:12 (NCV)

We died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Romans 6:4 (NLT)

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Ask Yourself: When did you become aware that God had set you apart for a special purpose in life? (He *has*, you know.) Was it at your baptism, affirmation of baptism, faith awakening, a crisis, the testimony or prayers of another, a challenge or opportunity, a graduation, or even a conscious decision or sobering realization? What ministry, pursuit, or service has God called you to pursue in the name of Jesus? (To answer this, you could ask yourself, what do people know and appreciate about me and what will they likely miss about me when I am gone? What do I have a flair for?)

Confirmation: If You Listen, God Will _____ You in Your Service (Ministry) for His Name's Sake Mark 1:10-11

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you

may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

Ask Yourself: What joys, results, affirmations, successes, compliments, recognitions, or promotions lead you to believe that you are on the right track in your service to God? What promises from His word back this up? Which can you claim even when the results don't seem to show?

Confrontation: Even in “the _____ of the

_____” **God Walks With Me**

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. Mark 1:12-13 (ESV)

Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake.” Acts 9:15-16 (NLT)

I will never fail you. I will never abandon you. Hebrews 13:5 (NLT) (See Psalm 23:4-5; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10)

Ask Yourself: What roadblocks and obstacles do I run into as I try to live my life faithfully and obediently for my Lord? Are they largely internal or external? Spiritual or material? Where do I sense that He is truly with me, no matter what?

Initiation:* Could Now be the Time to Take The _____

_____ **Toward a New (or Renewed) You?**

(*Initiate: begin; set going by taking the first step.)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)

The shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” Luke 2:15 (NIV)

Ask Yourself: What new or renewed venture do you believe God is calling you to undertake today? A faith awakening? Living with more conscious awareness of his presence in your life? Undertaking to live out one of the Fruits of the Spirit with those around you and with yourself (love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—Galatians 5:22)? Getting into, or back into the habit listening to the Shepherd's voice through daily Bible reading, reflection and prayer? (*Daily Texts* is a wonderful tool. Call 763-260-1057 to order a copy. Or Google daily Bible Reading) Or maybe God is calling me to specific acts of charity, generosity, reconciliation, or service.

“The Right Time is Now.”

God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6.2 (NLT)

[Aware, Plan, Affirm, Valley, Shadow, Next Step]

Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain

If you would like to be a part of our prayer ministry and prayer chain, please indicate this on your welcome card. Lyndi Peacock coordinates this ministry, and she will send prayer requests to you by email: lyndi@milehighlending.com. You can also call or text Lyndi at 928-899-2085. If you are seeking prayer please email Lyndi your request directly or fill out a prayer request card (available at the usher's table) and place in the offering plate.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls serve as a tangible reminder of God's love for those who are walking through difficult times. A prayer shawl can bring great comfort! Shawls can also be given in celebration of milestones such as graduations, weddings, and new babies. Our shawls are lovingly created by Sharon Tom, Barbara Poland, Sheri Simpson, and Debra Ochoa. Please let us know if you have someone who needs a prayer shawl! Recipients do not have to be local. Anyone with a love for knitting or crochet is welcome to participate in this ministry as well. Please email Sharon: sharonctom@yahoo.com.

Card Ministry

Cards for encouragement, celebration, sympathy, get well, birthdays and more can be mailed out via our Card Ministry. Pam Rineholt, Amy Greenland, Beth Wingate, Carolyn Peterson, Sharon Tom and Sheri Simpson coordinate this ministry and can always use donations of cards and stamps. Please let us know if you have someone whose day would be brightened by receiving a card from Mountain Reformed Church! Please email Pam Rineholt: pueblodesign@gmail.com.

Pastor on Call

The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm is the Pastor on Call. If you would like to get in touch, feel free to email eugenegrimm@me.com or call 928-925-6057.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers in several areas to help facilitate worship. If you would like to help, please let us know! We need Ushers, Liturgists, Coffee Fellowship Helpers, Setup Assistants, Sound Technicians, and Camera Operators.

Mountain Reformed Church Expense Forecast 2024

Mountain Reformed Church Financial Activity Summary (reflects our current operating expenses and general fund giving, not all designated giving & expenses)

	Weekly	Monthly	Annual
OFFERINGS (GENERAL FUND)	\$3,080.31	\$13,348.00	\$160,176.00
TOTAL FACILITY	\$793.00	\$3,436.00	\$41,236.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$1,575.00	\$6,828.00	\$81,920.00
TOTAL MUSIC & WORSHIP	\$462.00	\$2,002.00	\$24,020.00
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$213.50	\$930.00	\$11,160.00
Total Expenses	\$3,043.50	\$13,196.00	\$158,336.00

12/31/2023 Worship Attendance: 85

Mountain Reformed Church

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www.mountainreformed.org

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