

**1st Sunday of Lent**  
**Date: March 9, 2025**  
**The Sacrament of Baptism**

**Prayer of Preparation                      A Chosen Child**

*You're a chosen child. You're ours, by birth but more so as a gift from God chosen to fill our home with laughter and with love. You're a chosen child.  
You are our priceless treasure.*

**Gathering in the Presence of God**  
*\*Stand in Body or Spirit*

**Gathering Music**                      *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*                      Robert  
Robertson

John Wyeth

**Welcome & Life in the Church**                      Pastor Eddie

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively)                      Liturgist  
Rejoice and celebrate.

**Water purges and purifies; Water connects and cleanses; Water revitalizes and renews.**

Through baptism, we are connected to Jesus Christ, the living water.

**To love and trust God completely, to receive a blessing to live anew**

**\*Hymn**                      *Baptized in Water*                      GTC 482

**Confessing our Separation from God** (unison)                      Liturgist

Creator God, who hovered over the deep at the beginning, who spoke light into darkness, who split the heavens open and descended upon the Son of God in the waters of the Jordan, who created us in his image, *we have forgotten*. We have forgotten who we are. Nevertheless, you have not *forgotten* us. Forgive us, we pray for our forgetfulness of who we are. Let us not forget our own baptism and that which it signifies. Cleanse us by the power of your

Spirit so that we may once again walk in the understanding of that truth.  
Amen!

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**     *Jesus, Draw Me Close.*     Rick Founds  
Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.  
Let the world around me fade away.  
Jesus, draw me close;  
Closer, Lord, to You.  
For I desire to worship and obey.

### **We Hear God's Word**

#### **\*Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**Prayer of Illumination**     Liturgist

**Anthem**     *Down to the River to Pray*     Traditional Gospel  
Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

**Gospel Lesson**     Matthew 3:13-17     Liturgist  
*Source: The New International Version*

**Reflection**     Affirmation     Pastor Eddie

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

**Song of Preparation**     *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*     GTG 486  
(*Family is invited to come up to the baptismal font while congregation sings*)

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine

**Presentation of the Candidates**     Karen Palermo, Clerk of Session  
Hayes Fitzgerald Martin & Stone Atlas Martin

Words of Introduction  
The Baptismal Promises

Blessing of the Water  
Act of Baptism  
Prayer  
Welcome into the Covenant  
Presentation of Gifts

### **We Respond to God's Word**

**\*Song of Affirmation of Faith**      *I Believe in Jesus*      Marc Nelson

**Prayers of the People of God –  
Joys and Hopes and the Lord's Prayer**      Pastor Eddie

### **The Act of Gratitude**

**Offertory:**      *Take Me to the Water*      GTG 480

**\*Lenten Doxology**      G.W. Shepherd  
*Tune: Old Hundredth*

Praise God through-out these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

Liturgist

God of the water that cleans us, the land that feeds us, and the air that allows us to breathe your Spirit in and out of us; you claim us in our baptism, and if we remember (or imagine) our baptism, we too seldom grasp its meaning and power. As we present our tithes and offering in worship and witness Christ's baptism once again, may we remember that in that water we were, like Christ, commissioned to go: to teach, preach, heal, and even to take up a cross. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

## **We Follow God's Word into the World**

**\*Hymn**            *God, Be the Love, to Search and Keep Me vs. 1,3,5*            GTG 543  
                         O Christ, Surround Me

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                            *Water Song*                            David  
Libby

**Next Week's Liturgist:** Adele Hudson Trout

### **WORSHIP TEAM**

Pastor Eddie Jusino  
Liturgist: Patti Paleen  
Ushers: Adele Hudson Trout and Nancy Tompkins  
Music: David Libby  
Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento  
The Westminster Choir  
A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **2025 LENTEN STUDY**

We may have many reasons to study the psalms, yet rarely do we explore psalms of lament. Why offer a study on laments? Given the state of the world – war, natural disasters, climate change, famine, hate, suffering, and injustices – I've been thinking about studying them as a way to give voice to our individual and collective grievances with God.

Come and join Pastor Eddie each Wednesday, through April 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the Fellowship Hall starting at 10 a.m. through 11:15 a.m. Remember, you are

welcome and encouraged to bake and share your favorite treat. Coffee and hot tea on the house.

May the psalms of lament be a guide for our prayers in the difficult moments we are facing.

The following is a schedule for the remaining five sessions:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Page</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lent - March 12.	Ps. 137 Lamenting Together	20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lent - March 19	Job 3:1-4,9-19, 24-26 Lamenting Life	44
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lent - March 2	Ps. 51 Pleading for Restoration	
4 <sup>th</sup> Lent - April 2	God Laments	73
5 <sup>th</sup> Lent - April 9	The End of Lament	82

### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, MARCH 5 – APRIL 20, 2025**

Westminster PC's annual support of the PC/USA's "One Great Hour of Sharing" benefits our worldwide neighbors in need by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference and how to contribute, a Minute for Mission will be shared.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

New Members' Welcome  
Monday, March 17, 12 noon to 2 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Please join Pastor Eddie and  
Session Members  
for an introduction and informational discussion for new members.  
(light refreshments will be provided)

**Installation of New Members**  
**Sunday, March 30 (during worship)**

New Membership forms are available in the Narthex  
or contact Silvia Ritchie at 302-604-9529 or  
by email [silaxritchie@gmail.co](mailto:silaxritchie@gmail.co)

### ***REMEMBER IN PRAYER***

Prayer is a privilege. It is simply spending time with God, bringing our praise and burdens to God. It's an incredible foundational spiritual discipline. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed". (Mark 1:35)

#### *Surgery/Post Surgery*

**Marylea Franz** – at home recovering from colonoscopy. Please, let's keep Phil also in prayer as he is concerned.

**Paul Russer** – knee replacement (Rita Russer's spouse)

**Bonnie Ekas** – Beebe Hospital, dehydration

#### *Ailing:*

**Phyllis Fulton** - end of life (Mike Quinn's sister)

**Dee Austin** - medical test and relocating to Newark at end of March

**Eleanor Marchtmon** - heart complication, at Jefferson Memorial ICU

**Leah Christenson** – liver cancer, old friend of Charlotte Jacobs and John Stills

#### *Mourning/Grieving*

**Robina "Roby" Franz** – Friday February 21; "Roby" moved from this life to "More Life." Robina is Phil Franz's sister.

**The Smith/Hutchins** - Family loss of loved one (Kay Rotach's friends)

#### *Legacy Members/Aging with Grace*

**Betty Carnahan, Mable Granke, Hull McLean & Barbara Miller, Joe & Barbara Morgan, John & Pat Mossel, Bob & Jane Nicholson, Sarah Ortolani and Mimi Peters**