



Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And congratulations! We have made it past the now infamous year of 2020.

Of course, we know that the coronavirus won't magically disappear with the turn of a page on the calendar. But I do hope we have learned some things that will help us all as we move into the future.

I hope we have learned that our small actions DO make a difference: wearing masks, keeping our distance, improving cleaning procedures and personal hygiene. We CAN CHANGE THE WORLD – we can stop the spread of disease, we can participate in healing one another, we can save lives – when every person does their part.

I hope we have learned how important it is to stay connected with one another, to be aware that mental health is as important as physical health, that even though we may be alone, we don't have to be lonely.

I know we have learned that there's more than one way to worship God. I'm so proud of all those who have learned a little (or a lot!) more about technology so that we could worship in community with our family of faith – online and in the Spirit.

I hope that we have gained a greater appreciation of one another, a greater awareness that our actions do affect others, and a greater motivation to work together for the good of all people.

I am grateful for all those who participated in our Advent and Christmas services in lighting the Advent candles, in bringing us the beautiful music of the season, in sharing photos of the lovely decorations in your homes. Please remember that ALL of our services since last March have been recorded and can still be accessed on our website: www.firstpccape.org/sermons.

My prayer is that the challenges of 2020 will make us stronger and wiser, more grateful, more faithful, and more loving in 2021. May we commit ourselves anew to follow the Light of the World and never be overcome by darkness. May the Light of Christ guide us in thought, word, and deed.

Health and peace,

Ellen



Lectionary

Second Sunday of Christmas—

January 3, 2021

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalms 147:12–20

Ephesians 1:3–14

John 1:(1–9) 10–

Epiphany of the Lord—

January 6, 2021

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—

January 10, 2021

Genesis 1:1–5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1–7

Mark 1:4–11

January 17, 2021

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)

Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

John 1:43–51

January 24, 2021

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Psalms 62:5–12

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Mark 1:14–20

January 31, 2021

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Mark 1:21–28



An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 148)

The Baptism of the Lord is closely related to Epiphany and should be considered in relation to that feast. Jesus' ministry to bring in God's rule was inaugurated in his baptism. As he came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus and a sign of God's approval was heard. On this day, we celebrate not only Jesus' baptism but our own as well, for our baptism is rooted in Christ. Baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and with all of the baptized we are called to share in Jesus' ministry. In the waters of baptism we are buried with Christ, cleansed of our sins, and raised to share in his resurrection. The Spirit is given to us and we are declared the children of God.



Calendar

January 3rd

 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.


January 10th

 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

January 17th

 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

January 24th

 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

January 31st

 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.



Leona Friesenborg	Jan. 19th
Jim Dale	Jan. 22nd
Hazel Yount	Jan. 27th

