



*The People of God in Worship
January 7, 2018
Eleven O’Clock in the Morning*

Epiphany/The Baptism of the Lord

THE GREETING

Ms. Eleanor Ashwell

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

THE CHIMES

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.

THE PRELUDE

Please consider the prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ms. Eleanor Ashwell

Leader: Have you seen the Star of Bethlehem? Arise, people of God, for the Light of God shines upon us!

People: We have seen Christ’s star and have come to worship. We are here to let God lead and direct us into a new year.

Leader: Come from the shadows of earth to the Light of God’s everlasting purpose.

People: We see the reflections of God’s glory in our midst and our hearts rejoice in expectation.

Leader: The promises of the gospel are for us, and for all people everywhere.

All: We are here to be equipped by God to share this good news in our world.

***HYMN OF PRAISE No. 33**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

***INVOCATION AND THE GLORIA PATRI**

Ms. Eleanor Ashwell and The Community

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5

Ms. Eleanor Ashwell

Leader: A word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ms. Eleanor Ashwell

Leader: A word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

*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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

***THE OFFERTORY HYMN No. 293**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

THE GIFTS

*Offertory Moment and Prayer

Ms. Eleanor Ashwell

Offertory

The Child Grew Strong

Joseph M. Martin

*Doxology - No. 815

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

THE THIRD READING

Mark 1:4-11

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

Leader: A word for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE MESSAGE

Defining Moment

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The Community

All are invited to share the bread and the cup, waiting for all to be served.

The Bread: This is my body which is broken for you.

Do this to remember me.

The Cup: This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to the minister after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a profession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

***HYMN No. 680**

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

***THE BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Michael K. Cheuk

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

Gloria

Traditional French Carol

***THE POSTLUDE**

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- * The ushers will seat those waiting.
 - * Those who are able will please stand.
 - * Hearing aids are available from the ushers.

A copy of the prayer list is in the narthex.

Offertory Emphasis

Jesus pronounced blessing on those who visited and ministered to the prisoner. We help support the Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia through our participation in the Baptist General Association of Virginia. This ministry provides mentors who will work with inmates during the final months of their incarceration, to help them prepare for their return to the community. After release, the mentors help the former prisoners establish healthy new relations and positive patterns of living. This is your mission gift at work.

Please join me in prayer.

Help us to see the needs of the prisoner and all those affected by the prisoner's crime and punishment. Bless the work of the chaplains and mentors we help support as Virginia Baptists and help us to find practical ways to minister to all in need. Amen.