



Greeting  
Prelude

**Centering Words Psalm 51:6-17**

6 You desire truth in the inward being; [a]  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right [b] spirit within me.

**11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing [c] spirit.

**13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.**

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**17 The sacrifice acceptable to God [d] is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, with joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## \*Opening Praise

Heralds of Christ #567

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated #597 vs. 1,3,5,&6

## Scripture

Luke 3: 1-22

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, [a] 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with [b] the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19 But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

21 Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; [c] with you I am well pleased.”

Leader - “This is God’s Word for all People”

People - “Thanks be to God

### **Children’s Message**

#### **Message**

Jesus Centered vs. Self-Centered

#### **Gospel Praise**

Down by the Jordan  
You Are My All in All

#### **\*Peace**

#### **\*Offertory Response**

Glorify Thy Name #9 vs. 1&2

#### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

##### **Prayers for the Spirit of Truth**

**From the cowardice that dares not face new truth,  
From the laziness that is contented with half-truth,  
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,  
Good Lord, deliver me. Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **\*Closing Praise**

Make Me a Captive Lord #421

## **\*Sending Postlude**

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\*You are invited to stand as you are able or willing.

### **Prayer List**

Jon Hickey, Pat Sankey, Kurt Behers, Barbara Gotwalt, Barrie Kintner, Regina Reichard, Mary Heltman, Hurricane relief, Joann Voigt, Arica & Bret Monsell, victims of the Bourbon St tragedy, BJ Rhodes



January 19: Conference Benevolent Shares

Our benevolent shares help support the entire mission of the Susquehanna Conference UMC. Shares are used for administrative needs and the numerous ministries that the Conference oversees. Camp Penn, Green Hills, Mount Ashbury and Wesley Forest are the camp retreats that the Conference maintains. The Conference is also directly involved with numerous other ministries such as Mission Central, The Neighborhood Center, Walk to Emmaus, Mission U and The Center. You can learn more about the Susquehanna Conference UMC at <https://susumc.org>

### **Announcements**

#### **Special Envelopes - UMCOR**

There are special envelopes to give donations to UMCOR that will go to help victims of the recent hurricanes. The envelopes are located in the pews and at the back of the Sanctuary beside the donation bucket. If giving by Check please write on the memo line "UMCOR."

#### **Community Dinners**

Happy New Year and the start of our 2025 Community Dinners. Drive Thru turkey dinner from 4-6 on January 25. Sign up with Wendy Sunday mornings if you are able to help.

#### **Community 12th Annual Lenten Musical Meditation**

We invite all who love to sing to participate in the Community 12th Annual Lenten Ecumenical Choir. We rehearse Sundays from 2-4pm beginning February 23 and the dress rehearsal is Sunday, April 6 1:30-4:30pm to prepare for the concert on April 9, at 7pm. Please call Laurel Sanders at 814-238-2478 or email [lsanders@glcpa.org](mailto:lsanders@glcpa.org) for details.

#### **Youth Gathering**

Youth will gather at Park Forest Village UMC on Sunday January 19 from 5:30-7pm for a time of games & fellowship.

**Calendar****January 12-18****Sunday**

Friendship Class	8:30am	Boardroom
Worship	9:30am	Sanctuary
Children's Sunday School	9:30am	S/C Ed. Rm
Donuts + fellowship	10:30am	FLC

**Monday**

Pastor Hours	9-11am	Pastor's Office
Quilters	9:30am	Spring Creek Rm
Soccer	5:30-7pm	FLC

**Tuesday**

Pastor Hours	9-11am	Pastor's Office
Scouts	5-8:30pm	FLC
Finance	7pm	Boardroom

**Wednesday**

Girl Scouts	6-7:30pm	FLC
Oak Grove HOA	7-9:30pm	Boardroom

**Thursday**

Karate	5:30-6:30pm	FLC
Self Defense	6:45-7pm	FLC

**Friday**

Family Fun Night	6:30-8:30pm	FLC
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**Saturday**

Soccer	9-11:30pm	FLC
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