

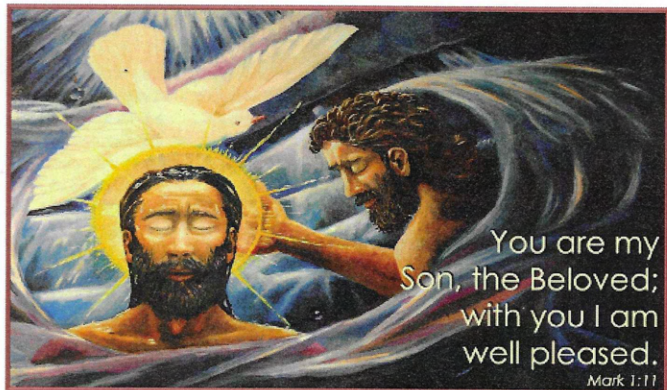
JANUARY 7TH, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

Welcome to Hilltop Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Mendham, New Jersey

“Proclaiming Christ’s Presence and Continuing Christ’s Work since 1738”



The Baptism of Christ by David Zelenka

MINISTERS

All the Members of Hilltop Church

OUR MISSION

The purpose of the First Presbyterian Church, Mendham, NJ is to acknowledge and proclaim the presence and power of God and to continue the work of Jesus Christ by loving God, God’s world, each other and ourselves. We are committed to the growth of faith, the spreading of the good news, and the mission of caring for those near and far. We fulfill these commitments through prayers, study, sharing, teaching and serving.

THIS WEEK AT HILLTOP

Sunday, January 8th
 10 p.m. Confirmation Class
Tuesday, January 9th
 10 p.m. Personnel
 10 p.m. Membership
Wednesday, January 10th
 10 p.m. Stewardship & Finance
Thursday, January 11th
 5 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
 5 p.m. Bell Choir
 10 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
Friday, January 12th The Church Office is Closed on Fridays
 10 p.m. AA in the Steelman Room
Saturday, January 13th
 10 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
Sunday, January 14th
 10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 15 a.m. Adult Education and Fellowship
 10 p.m. 2nd Sunday Fellowship Chili Cook-off



NEXT SUNDAY:

January 14, 2024
Pastor Scot to Preach
“Comfortably Numb”
Old Testament: I Samuel 3:1-20
Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:6

To worship with us online at 10 am (or anytime after) please visit the homepage of our website for the link and bulletin:

https://www.hilltopchurch.org/t_homepage.asp

Subscribe to our channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMendhamChurch>



SERVING CHRIST AND YOU AT HILLTOP

Reverend Scot McCachren - Pastor/ Head of Staff
 James Wynne - Director of Music Ministries
 Tori Legacki- Director of Hilltop Christian Nursery School
 Bill Lowe- Clerk of Session Brian Elliott - Treasurer
 Dane Manchester - Assistant Treasurer
 Amy Beal & Marilyn Willett - Moderators of the Board of Deacons
 Lissa Anderson- Stephen Leader
 Bob Willis - Organ Curator & Video Greg Smith - Audio
 Danielle Doyle - Office Manager
 John Andrews - Facilities Manager Brendan Doyle - Facilities Assistant
 Office: 14 Hilltop Road. Sanctuary: 20 Hilltop Road
 Mendham, NJ 07945
 (973) 543-4012 hilltopchurch.org office@hilltopchurch.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HILLTOP CHURCH!

We are blessed by your presence with us! Whether today is your first time worshipping at Hilltop or you’ve been a member for decades, we are glad you are here and pray that the living God will touch your life as you worship with us this morning. +++ We love having children in worship. We provide Noah’s Ark Nursery (with attendants) for children 4 and under but, of course, they are always welcome in worship. Please don’t be overly concerned about bothering others. If you do feel you need to take your child out of the sanctuary during the service, we hope you’ll return when you feel the time is right. +++ Out of respect for those worshipping near you please take a moment to turn off cell phones.

For additional information please use this QR code to learn more.

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A NEW CHURCH HOME?

We invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of Hilltop. We are always looking for new ways to embody Jesus’ call to love God and our neighbors in this community and throughout the world. We have a heart for mission and we believe in including children and families in everything we do. We’d love for you to be part of our future, continuing Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry of building God’s Kingdom.

While you’re here, please:

- Fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate to let us know you were here and to request a call or visit from the pastor.
- Pick up a copy of the Spire (our church newsletter).
- Speak with the pastor and help us get to know you.

COMING UP AT HILLTOP...

Christian Education Update

Heads up! Sunday School is back! Sunday School is currently serving grades K through 4th grade. Join us in the sanctuary for worship, and we will walk down to Hilltop House together for Sunday School!

Christian Education, Nurture and Development for Adults at Hilltop Church

Women’s Bible Study Group - Thursday mornings in the Hilltop House Library from 9:45-11:30 am

Men’s Bible Study Group - Saturday mornings in the Hilltop House Library from 8:30-10:00 am

Adult Education - Sundays immediately after Church in the Hilltop House parlor and tries to wrap up its meetings by around 12:30. On the final Sunday of each month there’s no formal meeting and, instead, we typically meet at the Blackhorse Pub for fellowship and brunch. We hope you’ll join us.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

ASSEMBLING IN GOD'S NAME AND LIFTING OUR VOICES

As you gather, take time quietly to sit and prepare your heart to worship God

Prelude "Prelude on 'We Three Kings'" David Holden
(Notes about today's music can be found in the bulletin at the end of the worship section)

Welcome, Announcements

Psalms 29 (OT Page 504)

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: On that first day, when time began:

People: You gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.

Leader: On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

People: You spoke of life for all your children, as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness, dancing in hope with his cousin, John.

Leader: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

People: You call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to you, your voice claiming us as your own.

*Hymn #480 "Take Me to the Water"

*Prayer of Adoration

CONFESSING AND RESPONDING TO FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession & Unison Prayer of Confession

Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's dark places and call us your Beloved. Forgive us when we still linger in the shadows, and when we treat others in hurtful ways. As he knelt in the waters of Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Child, pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us when we put ourselves ahead of him and when we fail to see him in the broken of our world. Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants. Forgive us when we fail to welcome the stranger, when we refuse to forgive, and when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, and the little. Amen.

-Silent Personal Prayer-

Assurance of Pardon:

Pastor: Hear the Good News of the gospel: As a voice from heaven aid 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.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria #582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. **World without end, without end. Amen. (x3)** As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Special Music

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:1-5 (OT Page 1)
New Testament Reading Acts 19:1-7 (NT Page 34)
Gospel Reading Mark 1:4-11 (NT Page 537)

Sermon. "Who Is That Man in the Wilderness?" Pastor Scot

RESPONDING TO GOD WITH THANKSGIVING

*Hymn #476 "Crashing Waters at Creation"

***Affirmation of Faith - adapted from the 2nd Helvetic Confession 5.185-6**
Baptism was instituted and consecrated by God. First John baptized, dipping Christ in the water in Jordan. From him it came to the apostles, who also baptized with water. The Lord expressly commanded them to preach the Gospel and to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And in The Acts, Peter said to the Jews who inquired what they ought to do: "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." There is but one baptism in the Church of God; and it is sufficient to be once baptized or consecrated unto God. For baptism once received continues for all of life and is a perpetual sealing of our adoption. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory "Your Light Has Come" Becker
Sanctuary Choir
Arise, your light has come The spirit's call obey
Show forth the glory of your God Which shines on you today.
Arise! Your light has come Fling wide the prison door
Proclaim the captive's liberty Good tidings to the poor
Arise your light has come All you in sorrow born
Bind up the broken-hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.
Arise! Your light has come The mountains burst in song
Arise like eagles on the wing God's power will make us strong.

*Doxology #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor continues... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues... Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again

The pastor continues... all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever:

Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

To signify our oneness in Christ, please hold the bread until everyone has been served. You may drink the cup as soon as you receive it, indicating your individual relationship with Christ.

Communion Prayer (unison)

You are a good God who creates, gives birth, redeems, feeds, and encourages us to grow. Thank you for your many blessings to us. May those blessings now flow out to others in your name, we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn #8 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

*Benediction

Postlude "In Dir Ist Freude" J.S. Bach

(Many people at Hilltop prefer to be seated to listen to the Postlude. If leaving, please do so quietly. Thank you.)
*(Indicates the Congregation will please stand as you are able.)

ABOUT THE MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Today's music celebrates the Epiphany of our Lord. The prelude is based upon an improvisation by the composer on the familiar tune, "We Three Kings." It begins very ethereally, and then develops into a more robust piece - finally fading away, as if the Wisemen had headed back to their Eastern homes. "In Dir Ist Freude" (In Thee is Gladness) is a Chorale-Prelude written by Bach for the celebration of Epiphany. The chorale theme is the sustained notes found in the top voice. For color, Bach adds an eight-note fanfare in the pedal part.

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Greeting you at the front door is Ruth DeNatale

Our Reader is Deb Buchanan.

Our Usher Coordinator is David Kerr.

Operating our Video System is Bob Willis.

Operating our Sound System is Greg Smith.

PRAYING TOGETHER AT HILLTOP:

If you wish to speak to the Pastor Reverend Scot McCachren you can email him at rev.scot.mcc@gmail.com. For pastoral needs after hours please call (201)400-1834.

Area of Ministry: Fellowship
Nt'l Mission: Race Reconciliation

Local Mission: Interfaith Food Pantry
Int'l Mission: Prayers for Nokias & Obi