



The Setauket Presbyterian Church

“As active disciples of Jesus Christ, we celebrate and share the love of God among ourselves and with others.”

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2014

9:30 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here.”

Take these few minutes to find the still, deep places within you, where God’s Spirit dwells.

Relax the body; quiet the mind. Focus on breathing, feeling, being. Be mindful of your center—your reservoir of inner peace, strength, love. Be aware of being together in silence with others.

Feel the spirit of the community.

Prelude

Ringling of the Steeple Bell

Introit *God The Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

CHURCH UNITED

* Call to Worship (Matthew 3:13, 16-17)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water,

suddenly the heavens were opened to him,

and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said,

‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

* Hymn 268 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

HOLY MANNA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great Creator, infinite in time and place, we thank you for coming to dwell among us as the Christ, the Light of the World. Forgive us for forgetting that now we are the body of Christ, and that you intend us to be your light to the world. Fierce lover of all creation, kindle again the fire of heaven’s justice in our timid hearts. Burn away the cobwebs of habit and skepticism, and make us the joyful fountain of blessing you made us to be. In the fullness of your mercy, wash away all fear and self-reproach, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ...

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection) Amen.

Assurance of God’s Grace

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

* Gloria

adapted from Hymn 492 Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;

Freed and forgiven, we are God’s children: Glory to God! All glory we sing!

HEARING THE WORD

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 322 Spirit of the Living God

First Reading Daniel 3:1-29

The Choir

The Golden Image

3King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, 'You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.' ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?'

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

The Fiery Furnace

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, 'Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.'²⁵ He replied, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.'²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!' So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.'²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.'

WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Children should proceed to their church school class.)

ANTHEM *Spirit, Come!*

Evelyn R. Larter

SECOND READING Acts 19:1-7

Paul in Ephesus

19 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.² He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'³ Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.'⁴ Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.'⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷ altogether there were about twelve of them.

THE SERMON *Fire, Water, and The Holy Spirit*

The Rev. Mary B. Speers

* **HYMN 313** *Come Down, O Love Divine*

DOWN AMPNEY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Founders Circle

THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory

(Please sign the Friendship Rosters found at the end of the pew,
noting the name of fellow worshippers when it is returned.)

* **Doxology 592**

* **Prayer of Dedication**

God our help, we your children offer you ourselves and the fruits of our labors. We hear your call to follow your beloved child Jesus. We yearn to fulfill our vows as baptized believers. Accept these offerings in Jesus' name, and follow them with your blessing, for by the Spirit we belong to Christ Jesus, who calls us his own and in whose strong name we pray. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* **HYMN 495** *We Know that Christ Is Raised*

ENGELBERG

* **CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION and BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE *Sevenfold Amen*

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

please rise in body or in spirit; **unison prayers are in bold.*

Large print bulletins, Bibles, hymnals and listening devices are available; please ask a Deacon.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

9:30 Worship Service and the Rev. Mary Speers preaching; Childcare (ages 1 - 5)

9:45 Combined Church School (Kindergarten through 6th Grade)

11:00 Confirmation Class in the Martha Jayne Room

11:00 Parenting Workshop in the Parlor
