

**BAPTISM OF CHRIST SUNDAY
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 9, 2022 – 10:00 AM**



*The First Congregational Church of River Edge
Welcome's you to our worship service this morning!*

✠ *The congregation may stand, if comfortable doing so. **Bold Text** is spoken in unison by the congregation.*

THE GIFT OF EXPECTATION

“O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.” ~ Saint Augustine

PRELUDE

The Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why have you come here?

**We come with expectation and hope,
seeking the cleansing grace of Christ.**

What do you hope to find?

**We look for a renewed joy and refreshed spirits
as the new year begins anew.**

Will you receive the surprises and opportunities
the Holy Spirit brings?

**Our hearts our open to God's Spirit,
ready to go where our journey with God leads.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Beloved One, you call us by name
and claim us as your own.**

**As we were sealed into your love
by the waters of our baptism,
claim us once again**

**through the power of your Holy Spirit.
May your glory shine forth in everything we do,
that the world might know us
as a people of the water and of the Spirit. Amen.**

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King: Heirs of salvation, Trusting his promise, Faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Dead in the tomb with Christ our King: One with his rising, Freed and forgiven, Thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Marked with the sign of Christ our King: Born of one Father, We are his children, Joyfully now God's praise we sing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Divine Spirit, descend upon us this day,
as you descended upon Jesus
on the day of his baptism.
Heal our brokenness and seal us once again
in the fullness of your love.
May we continue to swim
in the cleansing waters of our baptism.
And may we be known as people of the water,
and vessels of your Spirit. Amen.**

We observe a moment of silence

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has chosen you, called you by name, and claimed you with love.

**In God's love and grace, we are loved and accepted,
and all is well.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Gloria



Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
Three - in - One; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

✠ PEACE

May the peace of Christ, the light of the world, be with you.

And also with you.

The people offer a sign of peace to one another.

HYMN OF CHOICE

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 43:1-7 (*OT pg.672*)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (*NT pg.60*)

SERMON

The Gift of Expectation

The Rev. Bernd Weishaupt

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine, to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

With the healing of division, with the cease-less voice of prayer, with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of Grace,
Hear Our Prayer.

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.**

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERATORY ANTHEM

The Magi Who to Bethlehem Did Go

LOS MAGOS

✠ DOXOLOGY

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God of grace and love,
pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts we now return to you,
that they may become signs of your love and gifts of your grace
through the work of our church
and our ministries throughout the world.**

AFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters.

Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISMAL VOWS

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

We do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

We do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

We do.

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

We do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

We do.

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may replenish your Christian faith and life.

HYMN OF PARTING 407

How Firm A Foundation

FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
by god in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.”**

**“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
delivering you from your deepest distress.”**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed
your sould to make pure just as gold is refined.”**

✠ BENEDICTION

May the God of grace strengthen you with love.

We go into the world with strength for the journey.

May the Christ of new life inspire you with hope.

hope guides the way, and faith sustains us.

May the Spirit of new beginnings empower you.

**We go into the world to love and bless others
as we are loved and blessed by God.**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D Minor

John Stanley

*Assisting God’s people in worship this morning are the Rev. Bernd Weishaupt, worship leader;
Bert Schmitt, liturgist; Gene Hammerle, technician;
Slavina Zhelezova, director of music; Barbara Walcott, greeter;
Janet Arena, Marvin Orendain, Janet Masiello, Noreen Van Wetering, ushers.*

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, January 9, 2022

10:00 am	Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt/Church School
11:15 am	Carol & Nowell Choir
12:30 pm	The Well Church

Monday, January 10, 2022

Church Office Closed

12:00 pm	Al Anon
4:00 pm	ATWAS
7:00 pm	Step by Step – NA

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

11:00 am	Funds Advisory
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Wednesday, January 12, 2022

7:00 pm	AA
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Thursday, January 13, 2022

1:00 pm	Shawl Ministry
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir
8:10 pm	Pilgrim Ringers

Friday, January 14, 2022

7:00 pm	Tri County Pipe
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Saturday, January 15, 2022

8:30 am	KWIS
7:00 pm	AA

Sunday, January 16, 2022

10:00 am	Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt/Church School
11:15 am	Carol & Nowell Choir
12:30 pm	The Well Church

WELCOME! If you are a guest or visitor with us this morning, you are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the Narthex basket, as you depart after the postlude.

SANCTUARY SERVICES ARE RECORDED – All services and programs held in the church sanctuary are recorded and available on compact disc. Copies may be obtained by completing a *CD Request Form* available in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.

GREETERS ARE NEEDED - Any member or friend who would like to be greeter is encouraged to do so. Sign-up sheet will be available on the table in The Commons or please contact Russell Van Wetering directly at aprilsky@optonline.net, or 201-261-1795.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – January 9, 2022

Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Diana Loeffel, Emma Babington, Judi Schmitt, Rev. Chuck Holm, Rick Skae, Beverly Cannizzaro, Sue Becker, Dona Berg, Joe Corona, Adamarie Kendall, Arlene Rudd, Richard Smith, June Seilheimer, Judy Macht, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hachfeld, Edwina Arena, Barbara Carr, Peter Armstrong, Nelly Novarro, Anthony Mirabile, Carol, and Sue, Janet and Nicolas Post, Phil Ceppaglia.

Those Homebound, in Assisted Living Residences or in Nursing Homes

Jean & Victor Babington Sr., Doris & Chet Price, Chris Egner, Hilma Albrecht, Phyllis Malley, William Spencer, Joan Sullivan, Bill Finch.

Serving in the Military

Michael Shuler, Bob Bailey, Andrew Pohl

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 / (201) 261-1712

office@fccriveredge.org Website – www.fccriveredge.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Office is **closed**. Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Bernd Weishaupt Interim Pastor	<u>revpastor@fccriveredge.org</u> cell 908-347-7806
Slavina Zhelezova Director of Music	<u>szhelezova@fccriveredge.org</u>
Nicole Babington Minister for Faith Formation	<u>nbabington@fccriveredge.org</u> 201-956-3435
Anne Cooper Administrative Assistant	<u>office@fccriveredge.org</u> 201-261-1712
Jeff Bernard Financial Secretary	<u>financeoffice@fccriveredge.org</u> 201-538-3563