Hymn to be sung during Communion:
Following the singing of this hymn, and as the organ plays, reflect on your relationship with God and others, and offer thanksgiving and praise.
Communion Servers: The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison, Stephen Minister Judy Kim, Kathy Gordon, Ginger Merritt

Prayer after Communion
Leader: Father in heaven,
At the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
You proclaimed him your beloved Son
And anointed him with the Holy Spirit.
Grant that all who are baptized into his name
May keep the covenant they have made,
And boldly confess him as Lord and Savior,
Who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
One God, in glory everlasting.

People: Amen.
—UMC Hymnal No. 253, after The Book of Common Prayer

*Recessional Hymn: We Meet You O Christ No. 257
* Benediction Pastor Timothy
Postlude Sara Preus
Please stay for coffee and donuts following the Benediction
Our hospitality hosts are:
Suzanne Savage, Suzanne Byerly, Judy Kim and Ginger Merritt

Worship Leaders
The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison,
Stephen Minister Judy Kim
Our musicians: Sara Preus and Ignatius Banda
Our Acolytes: Natalie Williamson, Alexandra Cimpian, Masha Doering
Greeters Today: Jeff and Karen Eekhoff
Flowers: Judy Kim
Communion Bread Provider Today: Tong Doering
Set-up, Clean-up & Ushering Today: John Merritt, Todd Gordon

Please feel free to contact our pastors:
Pastor Timothy: revtfmerrill@aol.com;
Pastor John: jpwllison@yahoo.com;
Stephen Minister Judy: judyxkim@gmail.com

Electronic Giving or Giving in the USA
Would you prefer to give electronically?
Please see our Treasurer, John Ideker, for details.

Weekly News & Updates
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Visit us at: trinityshanghai.com

Announcements
WELCOME to Josephine Geisler, daughter of Tim and Tinne Geisler, a senior in Biblical Studies at Colorado Christian University, in Lakewood, Colorado, USA.
CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY.
Parents and confirmands, look for more information to follow via WeChat and email.
STEVE AND MARY NURRE are with us next Sunday! Mary will be our organist, and Steve might be singing!
NEXT BOARD MEETING is Monday, January 22, 6:52 p.m. at Merrill’s.

Prayer Requests
For Erik Paulson who is undergoing some more tests and who is experiencing weakness.
For Anne Gribble’s mother who was in a serious car accident the day before they returned to the States for the Christmas break.
For those who may still be traveling home.
For those who are searching for new positions.
For those who are anticipating a repatriation within the next six months or sooner.

Sermon notes: Mark 1:4-11
Mark is the only gospel writer who doesn’t provide a birth narrative (Matthew and Luke) or a reference to the preexistence of the Word (John). He gets right to it, starting the action when Jesus begins his ministry. This means that he must introduce John the baptizer to his readers.

John the baptizer is primarily known by his preaching, and it is this that ties him to Jesus. John is an appropriate prophet to prepare the way for Jesus, because his message and Jesus’ message complement one another as they both stress the importance of repentance (vv. 4, 15) in preparation for the kingdom of God. John’s preaching, in particular, focuses on two phrases: the “baptism of repentance” for “the forgiveness of sins” (v. 4). Baptism carries with it metaphors of cleansing. This was certainly true for Jewish sects (like those who lived at the Dead Sea) who used large pools in which they could immerse themselves for purification. Purification is another way that John’s baptism and preaching prepare the way for Jesus’ ministry. While John’s baptism does not cause the forgiveness of sins, it is associated with it, as people (“the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem”) “confess[ed] their sins” (v. 5). Later in Jesus’ ministry, Mark clarifies that it is only God, and now the Son of Man, who can forgive sins (2:7-10). Confessing one’s sins, however, prepares the people to realize that they are those for whom Jesus has come: “sinners” (2:15-17).

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Leader: For people anxious, / For people gathered here, / For all in this place, / For people grieving, / For people burdened, / People: A friend to share the load.

Leader: For people anxious, / People: Christ is calm assurance.

Leader: For all gathered here, / People: Christ is for you.

Leader: For everyone gathered here, / People: Hear the call to follow Christ and be Christ to others. / Leader: For all in this place, / People: Let your praise arise.

*Invocation*  Stephen Minister Judy Kim

*Sharing the Peace*

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5  Sam Williamson, Reader

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11*  Josephine Geisler, Reader

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I come after me, I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you God was pleased.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon: “Cleaning Tips from John”  Pastor Timothy

*Hymn of Response: Spirit of the Living God*  No. 393

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer  No. 895

CONVERSATION with the Children  Pastor Timothy

Offertory: Tim Geisler, James Stovall and Josephine Geisler

“Go Tell it on the Mountain!”  No. 682 Verse 5 only

(Sung as a round, MEN begin, and WOMEN follow at circle)

Prelude:

*Processional Hymn: When Jesus Came to Jordan*  No. 252

Pastor John

**Call to Worship**

Leader: For people in darkness, / People: Christ is the light.

Leader: For people in despair, / People: Christ is the hope.

Leader: For people grieving, / People: Christ is a comfort.

Leader: For people burdened, / People: Christ is a friend to share the load.

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