



Baptism of Jesus Yr C – 9th January 2022

(Leader: *David* / Greeter: *Heather*)

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus today,
may the Lord be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's
presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice
to the world around us every day.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

As we gather to worship God, we acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.

Call to Worship:

God says:
Look! See my chosen servant,
the One in whom I utterly delight;
**I have placed my Spirit on him,
he will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened up,
and the Spirit came down like a dove;
and there was a voice from heaven saying:
**“This is my dearly loved Son,
with whom I am delighted.”**

Opening Prayer:

Most wonderful God,
we too delight in your beloved Son.
As we gather in his name today to praise you,
may the heavens be opened for us, that we
may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our lives and our world with a
beauty not of our making.
Amen

Song: The river is here / what the Lord has done in me?

Prayer of Confession:

Sky-shattering God, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus, but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry.

We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those marked for service; and therefore, it is easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more.

Yet you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us. We are astonished by this.

We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways and in some behaviours which do not promote your love and peace.

God of water and life, forgive us. Help us to be people who not only recognise the light, but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in your name.

For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Words of assurance:

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator.
You are marked as God's chosen ones
to bring hope and peace to others.
Be at peace and live in hope.

Hear then the words of Christ to us:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

Thanks be to God

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another

Song: O love how deep how broad how high?

Moment for the young at heart: **Phil** - Koala Lou

Bible Readings: **Owen**

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia^[a] and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,^[d] ¹⁶John 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 thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[e] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His 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."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit

descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;^[a] with you I am well pleased."^[h]

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

***Reflection:* Rev Brian Woodhouse**

Moment of Stillness:

***Prayers of the People:* Brian**

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Giving thanks: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

**Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.
Help us to be gracious givers
in response to all that you have given us.
Use these gifts, here today, to be your light in the world
*Amen.***

Song: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry? / Shine Jesus Shine

Benediction & Blessing:

May God strengthen you and bless you with peace;
May Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you;
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you
and affirm you as God's beloved ones.

3-fold-amen

Pastoral Prayers: Alison

Acknowledgements:

Image: Baptism of Jesus by He Qi