



Baptism of Jesus Yr A – 8th January 2023

Greeter: *Wendy* **Leader:** *Joy*

Meditation Hymn: As the deer pants

As the deer pants for the water
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Refrain:

You alone are my strength and shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you

Welcome:

Greeting:

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

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

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.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Hymn: Christ, when for us you were baptised (TIS 250 – tune 129)

God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove, and yet
As urgent as a flame.

God called you his beloved Son,
Called you his Servant too;
His kingdom you were called to preach,
His holy will to do.

Baptise us with your Spirit, Lord,
Your cross on us be signed,
That likewise in God's service we
May perfect freedom find.

Prayer of Confession:

We come to God
knowing that we have failed to obey the call of Jesus
to love God and one another with our whole hearts;
but we come also to a God who reaches out to us
with healing and reconciliation.

In this knowledge, let us pray

Loving 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

Hymn: Now let your servant depart in peace (TIS 324)

Lord bid your servant go in peace,
your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
this child so long foretold.

This is the Saviour of the world, the
Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
the joy of Israel.

This child shall see in Israel
so many rise or fall;
God's sign raised high for all to see,
which yet shall be denied.
His mother's soul a sword shall pierce
of sorrow keen and deep.
From many hearts their secret thoughts
through him shall be revealed.

Blessed be the Father, who has given
his Son to be our Lord,
blessed too that Son, and with them both
the Spirit of their love.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian Lenehan

Bible Readings: Chris Longfoot

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy,
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Luke 2:21-40

²¹ When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child,^[a] and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.^[b] ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[e] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Dr Phil McCrea

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Ron Brown

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**

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: Lord your Almighty Word (TIS 447)

**Lord, your almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light.

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: Brian

Acknowledgements:

Image: Severino Blanco, Simeon Blessing the Christ Child, 1980s. Ayopaya Mission.