



The Baptism of Jesus

Sunday, January 10th 2021

Prayer of Preparation

O Holy One, let me feel your presence as I breathe in all the good that is you, and release all my anxiety and sadness as I exhale.

Loving Maker of all,
we have harmed each other,
competed for power,
treated other people, the earth and the creatures
with contempt and unkindness.

We have broken faith with you
by allowing institutions to misrepresent your Holy Word,
Your peace, and Your Compassion.

Yet even now you wait for us at every crossing,
at every way station, in every crisis,
to show us the path of healing and renewal.

Let us once again recognize
your garden of diversity
and abundance
as it surrounds those who live in peace.

Let us rest in the knowledge
that your judgement is the path of learning
and your forgiveness is granted
before any sin could be committed.

We wait in your love.

Amen.

(Rev'd Canon Trudy Lebens, Inclusive Morning Prayer, 2020)

Territorial Acknowledgement | Anglican Diocese of Niagara

We wish to acknowledge that we are on land that, at the time of contact, was held by the Attawandaron as an area of trade and ceremony by the two rivers. At various times the land was occupied by both Haudenosaunee from the south and Anishnaabe from the north. In more recent times the Huron Treaty gave rights to the Mississaugas of New Credit. In a spirit of reconciliation, we seek to respect the history, spirituality, and culture of Indigenous Peoples and seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect. May we who dwell on or visit these lands and waterways also be good stewards and honour those who came before us. And may our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.

Beginning with Praise *Psalm 29, A Re-Imagining*

Bravo, God, bravo!

Gods and all angels shout, "Encore!"

**In awe before the glory,
in awe before God's visible power.**

Stand at attention!

Dress your best to honour the Holy One!

God thunders across the waters,
Brilliant, God's voice and face, streaming brightness —
God, across the flood waters.

God's thunder tympanic, God's thunder symphonic.

God's thunder smashes cedars, God topples the northern cedars.

**The mountain ranges skip like spring colts,
The high ridges jump like wild kid goats.**

God's thunder spits fire.
God thunders, the wilderness quakes;
The Holy One makes the desert of Kadesh shake.

God's thunder sets the oak trees dancing
A wild dance, whirling; the pelting rain strips their branches.
We fall to our knees — we call out, "Glory!"

Above the floodwaters is God's throne
from which great power flows, from which the world is ruled.

God makes the people strong.
God gives the people peace.

May God's great name be exalted and hallowed throughout the created world,
as is God's wish.

May God's sovereignty soon be established, in your lifetime and in your days,
and in the days of all the house of Israel.

And we say: Amen.

Collect

Most wonderful God,
foolish and flawed though we are,
we too delight in your beloved Son.
As in his name we gather in the house of many praises,
may the heavens be opened for us,
that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our common days
with a beauty not of our making.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Music *Wind Upon The Waters*

Wind upon the waters,
voice upon the deep;
rouse your sons and daughters,
wake us from our sleep,
breathing life into all flesh,
breathing love into all hearts,
living wind upon the waters of my soul.

Showers from the heaven,
water from the earth;
gift so wholly given,
source of every birth,
joy of every living thing,
making all creation sing,
shower down upon the dry earth of my soul.

Blazing light of wonder,
flame that pierces night,
burst the dark asunder,
fill our souls with light.
Lord of glory, fill the skies,
make an end to hatred's cries,
be the blazing sun of justice in our lives.

*Text and music: Marty Haugen. © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
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Readings *A Reading from Genesis 1:1-5: In the Beginning*

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth — all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

God spoke: "Light!"

And light appeared.

God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day, he named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning — Day One.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

The Living Gospel *Mark 1:4-11: The Baptism of Jesus*

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, as told by Mark.

May our hearts be open to receive God's Word.

The messenger — John the Baptist — appeared in the desert near the Jordan River preaching that people should be ritually cleansed through baptism with water as a sign of both their changed hearts and God's forgiveness of their sins. People from across the countryside of Judea and from the city of Jerusalem came to him and confessed that they were deeply flawed and needed help, so he cleansed them with the waters of the Jordan. John dressed as some of the Hebrew prophets had, in clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He made his meals in the desert from locusts and wild honey. He preached a message in the wilderness.

John the Baptist announced to the people, "Someone is coming who is a lot more powerful than I am — One whose sandals I'm not worthy to bend down and untie. I've washed you here through baptism with water; but when this one arrives, you shall be washed in the Spirit of God.

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 I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of Christ.

May our lives be witness to God's love.

Reflection & Meditation

Food for thought:

Then came John the Baptist, a bold and nonviolent movement leader who dared to challenge the establishment of his day and call people to a movement of radical social and spiritual rethinking.... When a young man named Jesus came to affiliate with John's movement through baptism, John said, "There he is! He is the one!" Under Jesus' leadership, the movement grew and expanded in unprecedented ways.... It rose again through a new generation of leaders like James, Peter, Lydia, and Paul, who were full of the Spirit of Jesus. They created learning circles in which activists were trained to extend the movement locally, regionally, and globally. Wherever activists in this movement went, the Spirit of Jesus was alive in them, fomenting change and inspiring true aliveness.... [Christianity] began as a revolutionary, nonviolent movement promoting a new kind of aliveness on the margins of society.... It claimed that everyone, not just an elite few, had God-given gifts to use for the common good.

(Richard Rohr, Meditation, 30 November 2020; alt.)

Music

When Jesus Comes To Be Baptized

When Jesus comes to be baptized,
He leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
Anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.

He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.

O Spirit help us be like Christ,
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.

We praise you, God, source of all life,
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;
your triune presence fills our world.

Sending Compassion into the World

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving in the midst of these troubled times.

And we hope:
for the returning bird song,
for clear blue skies,
for health and wholeness...
for the loving arms of the gathered community...

We send our loving regard on the wings of the Spirit to comfort those who are ill,
who suffer from the pain of memory or anxiety or despair,
for those who mourn,
for those who hurt,
for the exhausted and the lonely...

We remember those in prison,
in nursing homes,
in refugee camps,
those displaced and alone,
that they may feel the breath of hope and restoration...

As we look into this day,
we reach out in love to the earth of which we are a part,
remembering the indigenous people of the world
who retain the ancient wisdom,
the plants and animals who share the planet with us,
the whole of the cosmos,
the heart of God, ever holding a place for us...

We entrust our concerns to the Holy One,
knowing that God cherishes the prayers of the faithful —
we who live without answers or certainty —
strong in the hope that we have learned to allow to guide us.

As Jesus prayed and taught us, let us pray:

**Creator and Care-keeper,
Love which art in heaven,
be gracious to us, our God;
hallowed be your name,
and let the remembrance of you be glorified
in heaven above and in the earth here below.
Let your kingdom reign over us now and forever.
The holy ones of old said, Remit and forgive unto
all whatsoever they have done against me.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and you shall reign in glory
forever and for evermore.
Amen.**

*(The Kadish is an ancient Jewish prayer sequence regularly recited in worship,
including thanksgiving and praise, then concluding with a prayer for universal peace.
Translated by Christian scholar, John Gregorie; alt.)*

Praise and Benediction

God of the waters. Water of birth,
moving us from safety into the world.

God of the waters. Water of connection,
**engaging the playful Spirit,
the passionate Christ,
the challenging God.**

God of the waters. Water of life,
sustaining, quenching, cleansing.

God of the waters. Water of trouble,
**journeying us from here to there,
from the known to the unknown.**

God of the waters.
Birth us. Connect us. Live in us. Trouble us.

My friends, may you ever know the blessing of this God of the waters.
May God grant you a place of rest in these challenging times;
May Christ Jesus be the servant king who binds your every wound;
And may the Holy Spirit gift you with the wisdom to choose
Jesus' Way of Compassion and Peace.

Amen.

(Scott A. Ressman, Immerse Yourself: Elements for a Liturgy on Baptism of Christ Sunday; alt.)

Going Forth My sisters and brothers,
go be witnesses to the peace that Christ has promised us,
bring compassion and care to all God's children,
and open your hearts and hands
to carry Christ's love and light to the world.
Amen. Alleluia!

Music *Go Make A Difference*

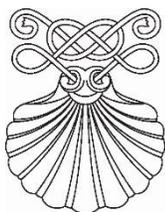
Refrain Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. *Refrain*

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. *Refrain*

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world. *Refrain*

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