



Baptism of the Lord - B
January 10, 2021


Key Scripture - Mark 1:10

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.

Theme - Another New Beginning



Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook 
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
 - Our church building is closed but our Congregation is
 - Church business will be conducted remotely
 - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook

Congregational Notes



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch are partners with us.

Brown Bags and Blessings can continue in the New Year through the kindness of our community and individual benefactors. Thank you for your prayers, they have been answered.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Introit 454 "May God Who Creates You"

May God who creates you give you light;
May God who sustains you make you wise;
May God who protects you give you joy;
May God who surrounds you give you peace.

Call to Worship Psalm 29 (VU 756)

Refrain - Glory, glory, glory to our God

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,
ascribe to God all glory and strength!
**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,
and worship in the beauty of holiness.**

Refrain - Glory, glory, glory to our God

God's voice is over the waters -
God's glory thundering across the great waters.
God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.

God's voice shatters the cedars,
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God's voice forks into tongues of fire,
God's voice shakes the wilderness,
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,
stripping the forest bare;
and in the temple all cry: Glory!**

Refrain - Glory, glory, glory to our God

God sits enthroned above the waters,
God is enthroned as sovereign forever.

You give strength to your people, O God.
Now give to your people the blessing of peace.

Refrain - Glory, glory, glory to our God

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,
We come to this time and place to be with you,
to worship you, and to learn from you.
May our time together
be like your creation of light in the darkness
that you called good.
May it be that you would call us good

while we respond to your call and
as we listen to you. Amen.

Hymn 100 "When Jesus Comes To Be Baptized" vs. 1,4,5

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.

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.

Learning with Children

Children's Prayer

Call to Confession

We desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed.

Let us listen again to God's calling our names
to encourage us and strengthen our resolve
to be God's people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

Prayer of Confession

We hear your voice
and we see the way of Jesus set before us.
But it's hard to try again and again
to live up to our baptismal covenant
and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world.
We ask you to strengthen us.
Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.
Amen.

Assurance of Renewal

God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus.
God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way.
Thanks be to God.

Scripture Genesis 1:1-5;
 Acts 19:1-7;
 Mark 1:4-11

Genesis 1:1-5

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.

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?”

They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?”

They answered, “Into John’s baptism.”

Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied - altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1:4-11

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 is coming 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 I am well pleased.”

God bless our understanding of this reading.

Meditation "All This Night My Heart Rejoices" (arr. Young)

Reflection Another New Beginning

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*.

John the Baptist was not a new figure or phenomenon. He was part of an aesthetic or prophetic tradition. There has long been speculation with regard to the relationship between John and Jesus and a form of Judaism practiced at the time. That which seems strange to us about John the Baptist would not have been unheard of in his day. However, that which seems common to us in John the Baptist, *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*, this would be much less common in John’s day. The new thing in this story is not John or his appearance. The new thing was *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*.

On this “Baptism of the Lord” Sunday, as we enter into “**The Renewal of Baptismal Faith**” it would be helpful to remember the newness of it. When we renew our covenant we do so in a new day, a new circumstance and at a different season in our life than was the case when we were baptized 13, 20, 30, 60 or 90 years ago. So, there is something

“New” in “Renewal.” As we enter into this “Renewal” let us be wary of “Repeating” a Covenant and reflect on the “New.”

The Renewal of Baptismal Faith

Before conscious thought or action on our part,
we are born into the brokenness of this world.

Before conscious thought or action on our part,
we are surrounded by God’s redeeming love.

Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity
is the means by which we are received, at any age,
into the covenanted community of the church.
It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith
and cleansing by the power of God.

Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining,
and transforming power of God’s love
and our grateful response to that grace.

- From A Song of Faith

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

Gracious and Holy God,
we bless you for the gift of life,
and, within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Water may be poured at the end of each of the following phrases:

Listen to its free-flowing powers;
Listen to its releasing powers;
Listen to its welcoming powers.

Statement of Purpose

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
 we are called God's own,
 welcomed as children of God;
 we are claimed by Christ,
 united with Christ,
 united with one another and the Christian community of
every time and place;
 we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace,
and justice,
 and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the
church in the world.

Let us now, as a congregation and community of faith,
reaffirm our baptismal faith.

Profession of Faith in the Triune God

Do you believe in God,
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Commitment to Seek Justice and Resist Evil

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ,
do you seek to resist evil, and
to live in love and justice?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment to Follow the Way of Jesus Christ

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
in your words and actions?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment to the Mission and Ministry of the Church

Will you join
with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith
to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation,
and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

As a baptized and baptizing church,
will you continue to support and nurture these persons
within a community which worships God,
resists evil, and seeks justice?

We will, God being our helper.

Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 445 "A Little Child The Saviour Came" vs. 1,2,4

A little child the Saviour came,
the mighty God was still his name,
and angels worshipped as he lay
the helpless infant of a day.

He who, a little child, began
the life divine to show God's plan
proclaims from heaven the message free,
"Let little children come to me."

O God, who by an infant's tongue
can hear your perfect glory sung,
may these with all the heavenly throng,
praise you: Creator, Spirit, Son.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Offering Prayer

Faithful God,
Bless us in our ministry of showing hospitality to others.
We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used
for use in liberating the poor and hurting people
who pray for our liberation as well as their own.
Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry.

Hymn 449 "Crashing Waters at Creation" vs. 1,3, 4

Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole

Prayers of the People

God of Grace,
You call us to pray with open and hopeful hearts.

Trusting in you, we join together in prayer for ourselves and our world.

We thank you for the work of your church
and for all we are able to do to bring your love, healing and justice into the world.

We pray for churches that are struggling financially,
for churches enmeshed in conflict,
for those that are tired and in need of renewal;
and for congregations that have found a new sense of purpose.

Give them all wisdom and strength.

We thank you for the healing we have known in our lives:
for the experience of being forgiven;
for reconciliation and mended relationships;
for comfort in times of grief;
for pain eased and recovery from illness.

As the pandemic still haunts lives and nations,
we pray for those struggling with COVID-19 and its
lingering effects,
for those whose emotions are raw from fear or isolation,
and for those exhausted by caring for others and serving
the public day by day.

Give each one the hope and courage they need to face this new year.

We pray for our brothers and sisters across the world
who are striving for unity in places of division;
for justice in the face of oppression;
for peace where violence has broken out;
and for daily bread in the midst of poverty and famine.

Give them hope and courage to face this new year.

Strengthen us to serve you not only with our words, but with our
actions.

Help us to see others with your eyes,
and reach out with your compassion, especially where
differences divide.

Teach us how to work together and show what it means to follow you.

Prayers conclude with:

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 87 "I Am The Light of the World"

Refrain -

I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!"

*If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun...

Refrain -

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!...

Refrain -

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!...

Refrain -

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!...

Refrain -

Benediction

We leave with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours.
removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears,
replacing them with courage and commission.

We go forth with Christ's calling, direction, and blessing. **Amen.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "When He Cometh" (arr. Young)