

# The Baptism of Jesus

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Baptism of Christ 1991 James B. Janknegt

### ***Call to Worship***

1 Corinthians 12:1-6

Thus says the Lord: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
**I have called you by name, you are mine...**  
you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you.”

**Song**      TiS 417 Loving Spirit      <https://youtu.be/bPTG0luf8AE>

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be --  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
you have chosen me to be --  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.

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CCLI 65422

### ***Lighting the Christ Candle***

Jesus Christ is come to be the Light of the World

#### ***Prayer – adapted from Psalm 29***

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
**worship the Lord in holy splendour.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
**the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

**the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the eucalypts;

**the Lord breaks the great gums of the bush.**

He makes the land skip like a wallaby,  
and the ranges like a joey.

**The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.**

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

**the Lord shakes the wilderness of the outback.**

The voice of the Lord causes great trees to whirl, and strips the bush bare;  
**and in God's temple all say, "Glory!"**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

**the Lord sits enthroned as ruler forever.**

May the Lord give strength to God's people!

**May the Lord bless God's people with peace!**

*... "You are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you."*

Loving and merciful God, forgive us when we allow our fears  
and our worries to stifle your voice of love.

Help us to hear your words of love reverberate in every corner of our being  
so that we know that we too are your beloved, on whom your favour rests.

**This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

**Song** You are mine (David Haas) <https://youtu.be/gBPA4mIJ5NY>

I will come to you in the silence  
I will lift you from all your fear  
You will hear My voice, I claim you as My choice  
Be still, and know I am near...

I am hope for all who are hopeless  
I am eyes for all who long to see  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light  
Come and rest in Me...

Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I have called you each by name  
Come and follow Me, I will bring you home  
I love you and you are mine

I am strength for all the despairing  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free  
And all will know My name...

I am the Word that leads all to freedom  
I am the peace the world cannot give  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain  
Stand up, now, walk, and live...

### ***Assurance of Forgiveness***

This is the good news:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***Learning Together*** The Holy Spirit <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/holy-spirit/>

### ***Reading the Scriptures***

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."

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**Sermon** <https://vimeo.com/497566019>

## **Prayers**

Gracious and loving God,

You call us to love you with our whole being, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

At this time of upheaval and distress for nations and people across our world, may your love hold us together.

May your love be the lens through which we see each other and your world.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are present with us, as one who knows our suffering, bring comfort and peace to all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, work, connection and hope for the future.

May we embody your compassion – responding to the suffering of our neighbours, our families, our friends, and strangers with generosity.

Life-giving Spirit, you weave us together as the Body of Christ, strengthen our life together, even though we are physically separated. Nurture us in faith and

discipleship, that we may bear witness through our living, to your abundant grace and liberating hope for all people, and the whole creation.  
Through Christ our Life and Hope, we pray. Amen.

Dr Deidre Palmer – President of the Uniting Church in Australia

## **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 from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Song**      The Spirit, Like the Wind      <https://youtu.be/t4ANzk5VowE>

A cool and gentle blowing, a rustling through the trees,  
A floating cloud is pushed along the pathway of the breeze.  
Unable to be measured, unable to be seen,  
And, yet, the wind is known as it lifts the Autumn leaves,  
As it lifts the Autumn leaves.

A rushing wind that rages, an angry, stormy gale,  
A surging wind will sweep along the things within its trail.  
Unable to arrest it, unable to restrain,  
The wind declares its presence as it drives the heavy rain,  
As it drives the heavy rain.

A greater force is working, in greater strength She rides.  
The Spirit, like the wind of God, renews and sanctifies.  
A gale of deep conviction, a gentle, holy blow,  
She stirs within the heart Human, She moves within the soul,  
She moves within the soul.

Oh, Lord, I feel Your blowing, the stirring in my soul.  
I long let Your Spirit move, a full surrender know.  
Oh, let me not resist it, but testify through me,  
Of Your transforming power, of Your reality.

*Note – If you found this song inspiration, it is on the 'Even There' album,  
<https://foreverbesure.com/product/even-there-cd/>*

## **Blessing and Sending**

You are the people called to be baptised into Christ's body.  
You have been blessed – before you even knew it,

by God, the Creator...

You have been blessed – through baptism –  
with the identity of the Son...

You will continue to be made holy

By the blessing of the Holy Spirit!

Go now and live the life of blessing – be a blessing to others!

**We go in the name of Christ – AMEN!**