

January 9, 2022  
Baptism of Jesus

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering In Song MV 156** "Dance with the Spirit"

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life abornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...**

**Call to Worship**

At his baptism, God embraced Jesus as his beloved son.

**At our baptism, God embraced us as his beloved sons and daughters.**

At his baptism, God encouraged Jesus, speaking of his pleasure in him.

**At our baptism, God was delighted, encouraging us.**

At his baptism, God sent the Holy Spirit to empower Jesus for his ministry.

**At our baptism, God's Holy Spirit empowered us for ministry too.**

Let us worship the God who embraces, encourages, and empowers us to live holy lives.

**Hymn VU 484** "God, the All-Holy"

God, the All-Holy, Maker and Mother,  
gladly we gather, bringing in prayer  
old hurts for healing, new hopes for holding,  
giving, receiving loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing, knitting and blending  
joy in desiring, friendship and ease,  
make our belonging loyal and lasting,  
so that our pledging freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing, Nature enfolding,  
evil exhausting in love's embrace,  
weaving and mending, make every ending  
God's new beginning glowing with grace.

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

God of Life and Living Water, you quench our thirst, refresh our weariness, and bathe our wounds. Be for us always a fountain of life, and for all the world a river of hope springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair. We acknowledge that too many times we act as though we have been baptized with a baptism of repentance alone, never expecting nor wanting the power that comes with forgiveness and your Spirit. Forgive us for failing to lay claim to the new life Christ offers. Help us move through repentance to rebirth. Lay hold of us. Let your glory thunder through our lives like a voice over mighty waters. Let the call of your Beloved echo in our souls. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "Down to the River to Pray" The Kings Singers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-C3G1mMJQUY>

**Time for the Young and the Young @** 

**Hymn VU 449** Crashing Waters at Creation

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

Parting water stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage -  
channel to a life made new.

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.  
Wellspring, Source of life eternal,  
drench our dryness, make us whole.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

At his Baptism, O God, you proclaimed that Jesus was your Beloved, and you called him to deliver good news to the poor, to proclaim release to all held captive, to restore sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free. At our baptisms, O God, you declared that we too are your Beloved, and called us to do likewise.

We pray for your church. May we be your voice of justice in this world, may we be your hands that deliver righteousness to the oppressed and the marginalized. This week we pray especially for Hebron United Church in Bright, and their minister, Pastor Nancy Vandenburg.

We pray for those who live daily with systemic injustice: the poor, the oppressed, political prisoners, and aboriginal peoples around the world. May we never cease striving for justice until it rolls down like waters; like an ever-flowing stream.

We pray for our leaders, ecclesiastical and political, may they lead with vision, with wisdom and with compassion. We pray for the peoples they govern, especially this week we pray for the people of Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

We pray for all who have been displaced from their homes by violence or by natural disaster.

We pray for all who mourn: especially we think of the friends and family of Earl Deslaurier and Cathy Meeuse.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, those awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. Especially we pray for Debbie Fournier, Cecil Jenkins, Marleen Parish, Mac Toner, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

All this we pray I the name of your Beloved, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

From the moment of his baptism, Jesus knew he was following God's call. Through our baptisms, we also accept the call to follow Jesus and to share our gifts. Our tithes and our thank offerings will be received by Canada Post or CanadaHelps, by eTransfer or dropped off in person.

Just as your Spirit moved over the waters of creation and the waters of the Jordan at Jesus' baptism, Holy One, so may our offerings today move over the face of the troubled waters of our present world. May they bring new hope, new life, peace and love to each according to their need. In the name of the baptized one, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 29**

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.**

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!**

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.**

**Scripture:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John 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 the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His 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."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.** You can look them up on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and search for the passage.....in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

**Hymn MV 161** I Have Called You by Your Name

I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

**Meditation:** Fear Not

### **We Respond to God's Blessing**

**Hymn VU 101** Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus Christ, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem in your birth at Bethlehem;  
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest, in your Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;  
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;  
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word;  
with your grace our lives endow, grace to imitate you now,  
that we like to you may be at your great epiphany,  
anthems be to you addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

At his baptism God said to Jesus, "You are my beloved."

**At our baptism God declared that we are God's beloved.**

Go forth and declare, in word and deed, to all you meet,  
**that they too are God's beloved.**

**Sung Response: VU 963** May the Grace of Christ Attend Us

May the grace of Christ attend us,  
and the love of God surround us,  
and the Holy Spirit keep us,  
now and ever. Amen.

### **Announcements.....**

#### **Union:**

Unified Board meets Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

The deadline for submissions to the Annual Report is Tuesday, January 25.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 6, following worship.

#### **Dorchester:**

Worship Committee meets Monday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Central Board meets Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 13, following worship.

#### **ALL:**

**Lectionary Readings for next week:** (January 16, Second after Epiphany)

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11