

Worship Service: Sunday January 8, 2017
Baptism of our Lord
Theme: "Jesus being Baptized and Anointed calls us to follow"

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Our lives have purpose.

People: We are called to be like Christ and serve God.

Leader: God chooses us and loves us

People: God calls us by name and we belong to God.

Leader: God will bring to completion the good work of grace started in us,

People: And we will find joy, peace, and restoration in God's loving plan.

All: Let us worship God, who claims us and loves us!

*Song of Adoration: "**Hail to the Lord's Anointed**" BoP# 115

*God's Greeting (*from 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

(Our Lord has called us to worship and now greets us.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

(As God has greeted us with his peace,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

*The Sharing of the Peace (*We greet each other saying, "The Peace of Christ be with you"*)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Prayer of Confession in Word and Song:

"All Who Are Thirsty"

All who are thirsty

All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep
(We sing)

Chorus 1
Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come
(REPEAT)

Chorus 2
Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come
(REPEAT)

Brenton Brown | Glenn Robertson
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(Prayer of Confession – woven into song:

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life. We confess that we prefer our old lives; we let nostalgia prevent us from trusting the new things you place in our lives, we cling to destructive habits, we nurture grudges, and we are reluctant to welcome or forgive one another. In your loving kindness, have mercy upon us and move among us so that we might live together with grace. Amen.)

Assurance of God's Pardon:

Friends, hear the good news!
Though we are unworthy,
we are granted God's favour in Jesus Christ
and are baptized into the church of his beloved Son.
Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Song: **“Baptized in Water”**

1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one Father,
we are his children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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Youth message: **“All the Children of the World”**

Youth Song: **“Children of the Lord”**

We are all children of the Lord,
young and old, big and little.
We are all children of the Lord,
let us live in harmony!
Many names, many faces,
many lands, many places,
but through time and through spaces
we are one humanity.
We are all children of the Lord,
one by one, all together.
We are all children of the Lord,
just like one big family.

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1976

GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

Prayer for Understanding

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 29

Matthew 3: 13-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **“A Good Beginning”**

Text: Matthew 3: 13-17

Theme: “A Good beginning”

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, [d] with whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus walked approximately six miles from Galilee to the lower Jordan River to be baptized by John. This indicates the importance Jesus attached to this ceremony and it should indicate the importance baptism hold for Jesus' followers today.

Realizing that Jesus had no sin of which to repent John protested against baptizing him.

Even after John protested Jesus insisted as he wanted to identify with those godly Israelites who were coming to be baptized into repentance.

There was an even deeper meaning:

- Baptism for him was a ritual symbolizing the way he would fulfill all the righteous claims of God against man's sins.
- His emergence typified his baptism in the waters of God's judgement at Calvary.
- His emergence from the water foreshadowed his resurrection

As soon as he came up from the water, Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending from heaven like a dove and alighting upon him.

At the Baptism of Jesus, Matthew 3:16, the Holy Spirit takes the form of a dove and descends upon Jesus. A dove is also a symbol of peace and purity, which signifies the purity and peace the Holy Spirit brings.

This was Jesus' anointing as the Holy Spirit sealed that moment coronation for Jesus.

The Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus was symbolizing his moment of authority. The fact that it came down from heaven also tells us that this was Divine and Godly authority.

"The Spirit of God is upon Me. He has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives" (Lk 4,18)

When Jesus commissioned his apostles He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn 20,22).

After Jesus' resurrection he commissioned his Disciples giving them this same authority in Matthew 28: 18-19, ***"18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,***

Jesus before he ascended into heaven told his Disciples what authority they will have going forward, ***"8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with Christ. The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ. Therefore, if I am filled with the Spirit, I am abiding in Christ. I am walking in the light as He is the light, and the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse and keep on cleansing me from all unrighteousness.

Jesus said, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." You can be a great preacher, a Christian scholar, a deacon or elder, attend church meetings daily, live a clean, moral life, memorize hundreds of verses of Scripture, direct a church choir, and teach Sunday school, but if you are not bearing fruit in the sense that you are introducing others to Christ, you are not filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God.

It is the Spirit of God that moves us from baptism to engage in God's work of ministry and also work in us to impact lives.

It is the spirit of God that sets us aflame into the world of hurt, resentment and brokenness so that those who are depressed can be lifted by us.

God's spirit guides our every move and helps us reach beyond our own frailties and imperfections as we serve God.

May God's Spirit lift us beyond every challenge on this day that we remember Christ's baptism and may we seek those who are lost like Jesus did. Amen.

Prayer of Recommitment, framed by: "**Spirit of the Living God**" BoP # 400

Prayers of God's People, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

WE BRING OUR GIFTS

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

*Sung Response: "**Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow**" BoP#79

WE LEAVE WITH CHRIST'S PEACE

*The Benediction

*Recessional Hymn: "**Arise, Your Light is Come**" BoP#712