

# A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday, January 10, 2021

## The Baptism of the Lord



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF  
NIAGARA

**Prelude: Ciaconna in F minor (anon.)**

### WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

All: **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Bishop: God in Christ has revealed his glory;

All: **O come, let us worship.**

### THE COLLECT

Bishop: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

### We sing together... **Crashing waters at creation** (Common Praise #42)

1. Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath, first to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death:
2. Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through, washing off the chains of bondage channel to a life made new.
3. Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold, opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old!
4. Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul. Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### A READING: Genesis 1.1-5

Reader: 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.*

**CALLED TO LIFE**  
**COMPELLED TO LOVE**

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#### THE GOSPEL: Mark 1.4-11

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Mark

All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.'

The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### We sing together... Sing a new song unto the Lord (Common Praise #312)

*Chorus:*

Sing a new song unto the Lord;  
Let your song be sung from mountains high  
Sing a new song unto the Lord  
Singing alleluia

Yahweh's people dance for joy  
O come before the Lord  
And play for him on glad tambourines  
And let your trumpet sound  
(Chorus)

Rise, O children, from your sleep;  
Your Savior now has come  
He has turned your sorrow to joy  
And filled your soul with song  
(Chorus)

Glad my soul for I have seen  
The glory of the Lord  
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised  
I know my Savior lives  
(Chorus)

#### THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

*Music is played during a time of reflection.*

#### INTERCESSIONS

One: God who brought forth creation from the waters of chaos, we thank you and praise you for its beauty and stand in awe at your imagination and power. We praise you for the stars and planets in their courses, for the lofty grandeur of mountains, and secret ocean depths.

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One: We praise you for the wonder of the species with which we share this planet.  
Forgive us where we misuse or abuse your gift to us,  
bless those who seek to safeguard and restore it,  
help us all to live with integrity and kindness, upon your earth.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: God who has called your people, by baptism,  
to be your Church, following in the way of Christ.  
Give to all your church your heavenly blessing.  
Empower us by your Spirit to be bold,  
to live and proclaim your message of salvation,  
so all people may know your love, delight in your presence,  
and work together for the coming of your Kingdom.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: God, who led your people through the waters of liberation,  
Bring freedom to the captives in our world,  
to those persecuted by tyrants, to those oppressed by unjust laws,  
to those crushed by prejudice and those weighed down by guilt or shame.  
May they know the freedom and new life, of your life giving justice.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: God, who brought healing to Naaman as he washed in the river,  
Bring healing to all those suffering at this time in body, mind or spirit.  
We remember especially all those living with or dying from COVID-19.  
We pray for all caregivers, for all working in long-term care,  
all those who are working to bring healing and relief.  
all those working to distribute and administer vaccines,  
protect and strengthen them.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: God, who walked by the Sea of Galilee,  
we pray for all those who work at sea,  
for those who fish, or drill, or mine, or transport, for members of the Navy,  
and especially for those who have been unable to go home for so many months.  
Grant them your comfort, and a safe return home.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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One: God, who turned water into wine,  
we thank you for those who enrich and bless our daily living,  
for artists and musicians, potters and poets,  
for story tellers, actors and filmmakers,  
for singers and dancers, video editors and puppeteers.  
Thank you for your gift of creativity,  
which helps us understand more than we could ask or imagine.  
We pray you continue to inspire them and challenge us.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: God, who walked upon the waters,  
and inspired awe at your new ways of being in the world,  
inspire all leaders, to step out of the easy,  
and into the awesome ways,  
of living together and walking with one another,  
in difficult and challenging times.  
May we with them, do justice, love mercy  
and walk humbly with you.

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God,  
and in the language and version of our choice,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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.**

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### We Sing Together.... Wind Upon The Waters (*Common Praise #408*)

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Rock and hill and garden,  
wood and desert sand;  
Prairie, field and meadow,  
shaped by Love's own hand.  
Love that fills the world around,  
springing up from barren ground,  
Grow your love within the garden of my soul.
4. 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.
5. Wind upon the waters,  
rains upon the sand,  
Grace your sons and daughters,  
newborn by your hand.  
Come, O Spirit and renew  
all the life that comes from you,  
Send your winds upon the waters of my soul.

*Closing remarks and announcements.*

### THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Fantasia on "Iris" (anon.)