



St. Laurence, Coquitlam

January 10, 2021 at 10 am

Baptism of Jesus

Gathering of the Community

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

“There are two sides to this Baptism: The first is, you possess the Spirit; The second is that the Spirit possesses you.”

–Smith Wigglesworth

Call to Worship

Presider: Almighty God,
Your Spirit swept over the waters of creation;

All: You are sweeping over us now, creating something new.

Presider: Call us away from the distractions of the world
to experience what You are doing now, in us,
and through us,
and in our world.

**All: Open us to a new awakening, a new beginning,
where we look through the lens of the goodness of
Your creation, experiencing all possibilities in You.**

Presider: Turn us away fro the negative lens,
and lead us to the light,
in the name of Jesus, who leads us into life, we pray.
Amen.

written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

Hymn

O Living Water

This gift from heaven, our grace and healing,
the wondrous mercy of our God revealing,
into our spirits so softly stealing—

O living water, O living water.

O living water, O living water.

This holy river, 'round Jesus pressing,
where John the Baptist gathers all, confessing:
“Behold our Saviour, our hope and blessing—”

O living water, O living water.

O living water, O living water.

A sign so thrilling, so bold and daring,
at Cana's wedding, sign of Mary's caring,
new wine appearing, new love declaring—

O living water, O living water.

O living water, O living water.

This life so precious, so freely flowing,
this dew like brightest star of heaven glowing,
radiant within us, God's promise growing—

O living water, O living water.

O living water, O living water.

This raging torrent flows swiftly o'er us,
all 'round us surging, streaming down before us,
to wash and strengthen, heal and restore us—

O living water, O living water.

O living water, O living water.

So from this fountain we are invited
to deeply drink 'til all the earth's united,
'til peace is lasting, 'til wrong is righted.
O living water, O living water.
O living water, O living water.

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Reading Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created- the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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Psalm 29

Refrain:
Glory and gratitude and praise
now let earth to heaven raise.
Glory and gratitude and praise:
these we offer to God.

Give the Lord glory, you spirits!
Give glory! Honor God's strength!
Honor the name of the Lord!
Bow when the Lord comes,
majestic and holy. ***Refrain***

God's voice thunders
above the massive seas;
powerful, splendid,
God shatters the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon,
makes Lebanon jump like a calf,
Sirion like a wild ox.

God's voice strikes fire,
makes the desert shudder,
Qadesh shudder in labor,
deer writhe in labor.
God strips the trees. ***Refrain***

All shout "Glory" in your temple, Lord.
For you rule the mighty waters,
you rule over all for ever.
Give strength to your people, Lord,
and bless your people with peace. ***Refrain***

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Reading Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul 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." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy

Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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Gospel Reading

Reader May God be with you.

All And also with you.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Mark.

All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Mark 1:1, 4-7

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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.

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Reader The Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily The Reverend Eric Mason

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
All **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.**

Closing Hymn

The Lone Wild Bird

1. The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.
2. The ends of earth are in your hand,
the sea's dark deep and far off land.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

3. Each secret thought is known to you,
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.

4. In secret depths you knit my frame,
before my birth you spoke my name,
within my soul, as close as breath,
o near to me, in life, in death.

5. O search me, God, my heart reveal,
renew my life, my spirit heal;
for I am yours, I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

Contributors: Henry Richard McFadyen, David N. Johnson, Marty Haugen; Tune: PROSPECT

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The Blessing

Presider May the path
 that Christ walks
 to bring justice
 upon the earth,
 to bring light
 to those who sit
 in darkness,
 to bring out those
 who live in bondage,
 to bring new things
 to all creation:

 may this path
 run through our life.
 May we be
 the road Christ takes.

~ written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on The Painted Prayerbook. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Sending Out into the World

Dismissal

Love wholeheartedly.

Live as you were created.

Be God's people in our fragmented world. **Amen.**

The baptism of Christ

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one:
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,
The Other speaks, the spirit and he Son
Reveal to us the single loving hearts
That beats behind the being of all things
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.
The dove descends, the spirit soars and stings,
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'
In that swift light and life, as water spills
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,
The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river,
To die and rise and live and love forever.

FIRST READING

Notice how closely the Genesis passage is echoed by today's Gospel passage. In the beginning when God created. That this passage is given to us along with Marks description of Jesus baptism tells us that, for a Christian, the baptism of our Lord is in itself a new kind of creation, giving us a new way to understand our humanity.

THE PSALM

As we read the Psalm, its as if we are watching in awe as the God of creation shows us the majesty, even sometimes the terror, of creation.

THE SECOND READING

When Paul arrives in Ephesus he finds that a brilliant teacher named Apollos has been here before him. Apollos is deeply committed to the teaching of John the Baptist but has not linked people with Jesus of Nazareth. Paul in no way criticizes Apollos' teaching. He builds on it and brings the community into a relationship with Jesus.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Jesus admired John the Baptist immensely. This passage tells us why. People warmed to John because of his obvious integrity. He wasn't trying to build a personal empire. Again and again he referred to someone greater who would follow him. John is a kind of pattern for Christian ministry. He is genuinely committed to the task in hand and to the lives of people. He also recognizes his own limitations. When Jesus does appear from the crowd at the Jordan, John says to him "*I need to be baptized by you*". To say that in public was wonderfully self-effacing. Perhaps our best response to hearing this passage would be to ask ourselves what our own baptism means to us these days.

Herbert O'Driscoll

News & Notes

January 10, 2021

For more information on St. Laurence and upcoming activities visit the parish website www.saintlaurence.ca



If you want to get rid of all those beverage containers that you have lying around and you don't want to take the time to sort them all then why not donate the money to St. Laurence.

Money collected will go towards purchasing some round tables for the hall. If you would like to donate your beverage return \$\$ to St. Laurence here's all you have to do:

1. Put your containers in clear plastic bags, (which can be picked up at a bottle depot, or your local grocery store, blue recycle bags are acceptable) no sorting needed!
2. Go town Express depot, either use your pre-printed labels (which can be picked up at the church) or at the kiosk use the church's phone number (604-936-5423) to log in and print your labels, one per bag.
3. Place a label on each of your bags and leave them in the bag drop area.
4. Encorp will sort your containers and credit St. Laurence's Express account with your refund within 5 business days.

Bible Study

Paul: The Man We Thought We Knew

Please join us starting Monday, January 11, 2021 and running until February 8, 2021 at 6pm via ZOOM.

We will be studying Paul's conversion, missionary journey and teachings.

Please contact Olav at olav.slaymaker@ubc.ca

Liminal Space: Embracing the Mystery and Power of Transition (February 5-7, 2021)

Please join us at Loon Lake for the 2nd annual Men's Retreat centering around the theme **Liminal Space**. Our guest speaker, author Brad Jersak, will offer his thoughts and insights on life transitions during his time with us.

To register and reserve your spot, please contact Detlef Beck by January 15, 2021. Phone 604-992-7929/
detlefb2@gmail.com.

Issues & Actions

The week before Christmas "Hope for Freedom" was very pleased and thankful to receive from St. Laurence several boxes of much needed items for he Tri-City homeless. *Thank you*

With the very wet and cold weather the need has not stopped for the most vulnerable amongst us. Through the months of January and February donations for "Hope for Freedom" will continue to be collected. Donations can be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Items currently needed are: warm socks, men's and ladies underwear, ladies sports bras (with a back closure), men's and ladies sweat pants (all sizes), pudding cups, Jell-O cups, granola bars, bath towels (new and used) and reusable bags.

First Nations 101

by Lynda Gray,
a member of the Tsimshian Nation on the Northwest Coast of
B.C.

Her book is an easy to read primer that provides readers with a broad overview of the diverse and complex lives of First Nations people, and ultimately calls upon all of us to play active roles in bringing about true reconciliation between First Nations and non-First Nations people.

We have sold out of the books but Sylvia has ordered more and they should be here early next week.

The sessions will be bi weekly on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9 pm starting January 14 until the end of March.

Issues and Actions also hopes to have some guest speakers join us this spring as we journey together in reconciliation.