

The Anglican Church of St. Peter, Quamichan
Service of the Word, Season of Epiphany
Baptism of Jesus Liturgy – January 10, 2021

People of God in this place and in all places, we give thanks that you have joined us for worship, and we welcome you to the Anglican Church of St. Peter, Quamichan. With many churches across this country and around the world, we observe this season of Epiphany with this service of the Liturgy of the Word.

Opening Acknowledgment

Officiant: In this time and place, we gather on the unceded ancestral territories of the Coast Salish people and the Cowichan Tribes.
In this time and place we gather in the name of the living God.
In this time and place we gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages
In this time and place we are not alone, but one in Christ
In this time and place Hallowed, expectant, one people in God

All: In this time and place heaven and earth are one. In the name of the Holy and Blessed one, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen

We now raise our hearts and voices in song as Barry leads us in the ***Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word***

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Thanksgiving for the Waters of Baptism

Gail Ramshaw Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission.

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water - for the oceans that surround the earth, for the rivers that nurture the land, for the Salish Sea, for Somenos Lake, for Cowichan River and Quamichan Lake that provide for our community - we bless you, O God, for the waters of earth:
We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.

We honour you, merciful God, for showering us with water--
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees,
for the floods that restore the fields,
for the dew that freshens dry places--
we honour you, O God, for the waters you send:
We honour you, O God, for the waters you send.

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism--
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,
for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost,

for the water that illumines us with your Word,
for the water that pour out the gifts of the Spirit,
for the water that bathes the church universal--
the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, the Anglicans
and the Independents -
we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:

We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, almighty, merciful, and gracious.
Well of forgiveness, you revive us, Cup of cold water, you refresh us, Pool of rebirth,
you renew us.

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:

To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.

We now raise our hearts and voices in song as Barry leads us in the ***Hymn: Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost***

Collect of the Day

From Liturgy for World Water Day. Maïke Gorsboth, World Council of Churches

Leader: Holy and life-giving God, who moved over the waters of creation, who led
your people through the waters of the Red Sea to liberation, who
descended like a dove above the waters of Jesus' baptism, draw us
together as we gather in your name, seeking replenishment for your task
of repairing the world. We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus
Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now Barry will lead us in the ***Hymn: Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song***

Officiant: I invite you to settle your hearts and minds and be attentive as we hear the
Story of our Faith Proclaimed

Responsory: Living Water (inspired by Exodus 17: 1-7)

Copyright © John van de Laar Sacredise.com

In the dry wildernesses of our lives, in the days of heat and thirst, you offer us living
water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When we begin to doubt your presence, and grumble that your love is unreliable,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When life's regrets and the bad choices we have made leave us feeling excluded and
unworthy, you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others, have left us alone and wounded,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

We thank you and praise you, O God, that how ever we may thirst, what ever we may need to satisfy our souls, you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ;

So we drink deep of the living water and, as we draw from your wells, we seek to pass the cup to others who, like us, are thirsty for your grace. Amen.

Psalm

Let us say together Psalm 29 Alternately by the Half Verse

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

All: God of mystery and power, open our eyes to the flame of your love, and open our ears to the thunder of your justice, that we may receive your gifts of blessing and peace, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: 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."

Reflection

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers of the People

from The Episcopal Ecological Network website

The water that God called into being is at the heart of all that lives. Mindful of the many ways water affects our lives, let us pray for our waters and for the life of the world around us. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for all people of faith, and for the transformations in their lives that are marked by the sacredness of water: at the Red Sea, in the Jordan and the Ganges Rivers, in ritual baths, in the washing of feet, and in Holy Baptism. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for the leaders of nations, corporations, and communities around the world, that they may exercise wise stewardship over the waters of their lands, so that all people may have clean water to drink and live free from waterborne diseases. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for the wisdom to shape creative solutions to conflicts over water in the dry places of our planet, and for justice and peace in desert lands. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for the oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, watersheds, streams, ponds, deltas, marshes, and swamps of our planet, for the waters beneath the ground, and for all creatures that live in the waters of the earth. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for all who travel or work at sea or on inland waterways. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for all who suffer from too much water in the destruction of flood, storm, tsunami, and ice; and for those people and creatures who suffer as the glaciers and ice floes vanish. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for all who thirst for water, for health, for love, for wisdom, for God, that their cups may be filled to overflowing. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your prayers for all who are hurting, suffering, ill we ask that you heal, restore and renew them to new life. Today, we remember especially; Jane, Peter, Nancy, Rocke, Sandee, Jennifer, Vera, Dorothy, Audrey, Vital, Teresa, Bob, Frank, Doris, John, Pearl, Brian and Connie. We pray for those who have been left homeless by fire in our town. And we pray for others we now name either aloud or in our hearts.

We ask your prayers for all who have died, remembering especially Jerry and for the community who mourns his passing that their tears of grief may be turned to wellsprings of joy. *(silence)*

God of living water, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed God, in your wisdom you uphold creation and renew it again and again.

The wonderful power of your renewing grace, and the profound hope of your healing for a world still roiling with turmoil, bless this peculiar mystery of water that it may ever

remind us of our molecular attraction to you, the Holy One, Creator of life and love.
Amen.

Additional Prayers for the United States of America

Hymn

Blessing

Officiant: May God lead you by still waters, may Christ sustain you with living water, and may the Holy Spirit well up within you and give you peace this day and for evermore. **Amen.**

Sending Forth

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, inviting all we meet to join us on our pilgrimage.

All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia!