

Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster Worship  
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrews  
and Trinity Memorial

Baptism of Christ / First Sunday After the Epiphany  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**

**Today's Leadership includes**

Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician – Donna Poncelet & Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

*People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.*

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation**  
**Land Acknowledgments All**

**Lighting the Rainbow Candles Tim**

**Lighting the Christ Candle Tracy Speaks, Tim lights**

Once there was a star that twinkled high above the night sky. It was so captivating that people simply had to follow it, and they followed it all the way to Bethlehem.

*(the candle is lit)*

The Light of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Sung response: "Arise, Your Light is Come" (verse 1) VU 79**

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

**Call to Worship: Tim**

If the fully-human Jesus was God's beloved child,  
Then you and I, children all, are beloved in all of our humanness.

**I am beloved. I am a child of God. I am welcome in this gathering.**

**You are all welcome among us.**

**You are all of you beloved, and children of God.**

Let us worship the God in whom we belong.

**Opening Prayer: Tim**

Just as Jesus went down under the water to be baptized,  
**so may we immerse ourselves in worship and praise.**

Just as Jesus did this to fulfill all righteousness,  
**so may we seek to be righteous all our days.**

Just as the Spirit descended on Christ as a dove,  
**may we know the blessing of the Spirit's presence settling gently on us  
now and making our intentions holy. Amen.**

**Hymn:** “Sing Praise to God” VU 221

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!  
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!  
Gladsome rejoice, organ and trumpet and voice  
Joining God’s great congregation.

Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,  
Who, as on eagle’s wings saves us from sinful dejection ,  
Have you observed how we are always preserved,  
by God’s parental affection!

Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.  
Merciful God ever love to encourage and bless us.  
Only conceive what godly strength  
can achieve strength that would teach and caress us.

Sing praise, my soul, that the great name of your high God commending.  
All that have life and breath join you,  
Their notes sweetly blending. God is your light!  
Soul, ever keep this in sight: Amen, amen, never ending

**Time with our Children:** **Tim**

**Hymn:** “Jesus Bids Us Shine” VU 585

*Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light, like a little candle burning in the night;  
In this world of darkness, so let us shine, you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

*Jesus bids us shine, first of all for Him; well He sees and knows it if our light grows dim;  
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine, you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

*Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around, many kinds of darkness in the world are  
found:: sin, and want, and sorrow—so we must shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

*We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.*

**Prayer of Confession:** **Tracy**

God has called us to this time of worship and confession.

**We come, O God, bearing our sins and griefs,  
our disappointments and confusion.**

God calls us to come as children, open and vulnerable.

**We come, O God, looking for answers, looking for love.**

God calls us to come as beloved children and confess in trust and in hope.

**We come, O God, to answer your call, to confess and worship you.**

Written by Jim Warburton. *Gathering, A/C/E* 2020. Adapted.

*(silent prayer)*

**Assurance:** **Tim**

Your baptism marks you for life as one of the people of Christ.  
Christ upon you, the water of your baptism;  
Christ within you, the cup of new life;  
sin no more and accept the grace of the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Sung Response: “Gloria (Glory to God)”** VU 37

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia. (twice)**

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

**Scripture Reading:**

*Isaiah 43: 1-7 (paraphrased)*

Do not be afraid. I have called you by name.  
I will pay whatever it takes to win you back to me.  
I would give away whole continents as a ransom, if that’s what it took.  
I’d pay the highest price you could imagine,  
and much more, just to bring you home.  
I created you and you are mine.  
I will always keep you safe. Wild rushing torrents won’t sweep you away.  
Fire won’t hurt you. Nothing will ever cause you harm.  
You are precious in my eyes, and honoured and trusted. I love you. I am with you.

*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 [NRSV]*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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.”  
Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** "Journey Into the Unknown"

**Hymn:** “Down By the Jordan”

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:  
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"  
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I  
Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!

## WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

### Prayers of the People and all the World: Tim

#### Prayers shared from the chat: Tracy

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we speak together the words that Jesus taught us...

#### The Lord's Prayer [Spoken 921]

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.

#### Minute for Mission

#### Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Tim

Here is our cash; here are our cheques; here is our Pre-Authorized Remittance;  
here are our online donations.

**They are an expression of hope for Light in the World.**

Here are our hearts; here is our time; here are our passions; here are our lives.

**Let our gifts and our lives proclaim Light to the World.**

#### Doxology ("As With Gladness Men of Old", verse 3) **VU 81**

*Vs 3) As they offered gifts most rare at that manger, crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King! X 2*

#### Prayer of Dedication: Tim

These are the gifts of God, given by and for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Hymn: "Wild and Lone" the Prophet's Voice

Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,  
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:  
"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.  
Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.  
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:  
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,  
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.  
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,  
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.

**Blessing and Sending Forth: Tim**

May the Sending One sing in you, May the Seeking One walk with you, May the Greeting One stand by you, in your gladness and in your grieving.  
May the Gifted One relieve you, May the Given One retrieve you, May the Giving One receive you, in your falling and your restoring.  
May the Binding One unite you, May the One Belov'd invite you,  
May the Loving One delight you, Three-in-One, joy in life unending.

Written by Brian Wren.

**Sung Response:** "I Am the Light of the World" (chorus) VU 87

**I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love  
you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

**Postlude**

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