

A Service of Morning Prayer
January 8, 2022
The Baptism of the Lord



Baptism of Jesus
 by Bartolome Estevan Murillo, Seville, 1617-1682

A voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

CP 135 Shepherds in the Field Abiding

1 Shepherds in the field abiding
 tell us, when the seraph bright
 greeted you with wondrous tiding,
 what you saw and heard that night.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 We beheld (it is no fable),
 God incarnate, king of bliss,
 swathed and cradled in a stable,
 and the angel strain was this: [Refrain]

3 Choristers on high were singing
 Jesus and his virgin birth,
 heavenly bells the while aringing,
 "Peace, goodwill to all on earth." [Refrain]

4 Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;
 let us go to Bethlehem.
 Angels hymn the king of glory;
 carol we with you and them. [Refrain]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 That we may perfectly love you,
 And worthily magnify your holy name;
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 29

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

29:1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

29:3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

29:5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

29:6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

29:7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

29:8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

29:9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

29:10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

29:11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

A Reading from Isaiah 42:1-9

42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

42:2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

42:3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

42:4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

42:5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

42:6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

42:7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

42:8 I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

42:9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 120 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
an peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

A Reading from Acts 10:34-43

10:34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

10:35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

10:36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.

10:37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

10:39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;

10:40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

10:41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

10:42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

10:43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 123 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

3 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:13-17

3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

3:14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

3:15 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.

3:16 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.

3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7160123 Hope Of The Ages

1 The prophets had glimpsed
 And the angels had watched with awe
 The unfolding plans of our faithful redeeming
 God
 What they longed for we have seen
 What was promised we believe

2 The vision once clouded
 Has now to our hearts appeared
 Once shrouded in myst'ry
 Redemption has been made clear
 Our Messiah now has come
 Word made Flesh the Saving One

Chorus

***Hope of the Ages Isaiah's Great Light
 Abraham's offspring
 Blessing of Jacob Judah's might
 Hope of the Ages David's true Son
 Desire of nations promised salvation
 God with us***

Bridge

All hail the One now revealed to the world
 In Bethlehem born to a young virgin girl
 Lamb without blemish yet cruelly betrayed
 Who cried it is finished and rose from the
 grave
 The Father's great gift and the proof of His
 love
 Hope of the Ages our God here with us

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

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

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

Prayers of the People compiled and led by The Rev. Alison Westervelt

At the start of a new year, let us pray for people everywhere and in every kind of need, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer.

We pray that your wonderful gift may be manifest to us, and that we, in our turn, may discover our own gifts and use them to your glory. We pray for your church across the world and here in Edmonton:

- For the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)
- For the Diocese of New Westminster and her Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens.
- For the retired clergy of the Diocese of Edmonton: Michael Rolph; Doreen Scott; Susan Storey; Allan Studd; Michael Sung; Carol Tyrrell; Jacques de Vaillancourt; Dan Van Alstine; Robin Walker; Linda Whittle; Anne Wightman; Mary Charlotte Wilcox; Robert Wild; Michael Williamson; Dan Wold.
- For the Buyé Diocese and the Vumbi Parish and her Rector, Jean Baptiste Muhigirwa.
- For the people and the community of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation.

That people of faith learn to live in harmony and mutual respect, recognising our similarities and celebrating our differences. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all in authority, that this may be the year when they achieve wisdom, mercy, and respect for all humanity. We pray that new democracies which have emerged or are still struggling to emerge may go forward in peace and fulfil the hopes of their peoples. We pray for all who suffer indignity, deprivation, starvation, fear, or loss of freedom at the hands of others. We pray that this be the year when people who live with war may find peace and those who suffer oppression may find freedom. May lessons be learned by all of us from the mistakes and misfortunes of the past year. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all whose faith or hope has been a struggle because of hardship and illness. We pray for those who are sick or bereaved and for those who care for them and seek to bring them relief from their suffering. We pray for those who have requested our prayers: Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Kathryn..... Helen..... Jenifer..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Luisa..... Miranda..... Bill..... Maxime..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Mark and Blake..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Rosemary..... Wayne..... Roald

Give them the strength and courage to carry on and hope for the future. We pray especially for all those who are known to you alone and we remember them now in a moment of silence Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died. For the peaceful repose of the soul of Mona Johnston That our darkness may be turned into light so that in your light we shall see light, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

**Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit,
keep your children, born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to their calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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.**

CP 151 All Poor Folk and Humble

1 All poor folk and humble, all lame folk who
stumble
come haste ye, and be not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, whose love passes
measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid
Though wise men who found him laid rich
gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay;
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty:
contented in manger he lay.

2 The Christ child will lead us, the good
Shepherd feed us,
and with us abide till his day.
Then hatred he'll banish, then sorrow will
vanish,
and death and despair flee away.
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall
sever
from us the great love of our King.
His peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing.

Refrain:

***Then haste we to show him the praises we
owe him
our service he ne'er can despise,
whose love still is able to show us that
stable
where softly in manger he lies.***

The Dismissal

A voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.