

A Short Act of Worship, The Baptism of Christ, 10 January 2021

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

Because God was merciful, he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.
Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises by confessing our sins in penitence.

Please take a few moments of quiet to reflect on all that has passed and on what lies ahead.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor on'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall and the promise of ages it then did recall.*

God's Word:

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.'

(Mark 1: 4-11)

Take a few moments of silence to think about these words

You may then like to spend a few minutes in silence, or slowly read this hymn:

When Jesus comes to be baptized, he leaves the hidden years behind,
The years of safety and of peace to bear the sins of humankind.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down, anoints the Christ to suffering,
To preach the word, to free the bound, and to the mourner, comfort bring.

He will not quench the dying flame, and what is bruised he will not break,
But heal the wound injustice dealt, and out of death his triumph make.

Our everlasting Father, praise, with Christ, his well-belovèd Son,
Who with the Spirit reigns serene, eternal Trinity in One.

Our prayers

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word, proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner,
hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word ...

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and fire, strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith ...

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent, teach your Church dependence on your grace ...

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, give hope to all who suffer or are ignored ...

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father, anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit ...

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life ...

Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father makes us and all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory. **Amen.**

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven, (or) Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name ... hallowed be thy name ...

*Christ came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.*

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life,
perfect in us the image of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.