

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe  
THE BAPTISM OF JESUS  
January 8, 2023  
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we come to the banks of the Jordan to witness the baptism of Jesus, we remember that where we live and where we worship lie on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe people.

People: **May we share our mutual dependency on the land in which we dwell with joy and hope together.**

Fr. Michael: God shows no partiality. No race or group is shown special advantage. In every nation, everyone who respects God and who does what is right is acceptable to the Lord. You know the message that God sent to all through the people of Israel: it is a message of peace by Jesus Christ who has been made Lord of all. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the Evil One, for God was with them. He was put to death on the cross, but he was raised on the third day and appeared to many witnesses, commanding them to preach and to testify that Jesus is the One ordained by God as Lord and Judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him so that whoever believes in him receives forgiveness through his name. Today, we gather in his blessed name and we bless the Lord for the salvation which he so freely offers through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

(The Reverend Richard F. Fairchild posted at kir-Shalom 2019)

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

People: **and also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we delight in your beloved Son Jesus. As in his name we gather in this house of many praises, may the heavens be opened to us, so that we might catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty and power not of our making. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

(Bruce Prewer in Bruce Prewer's HomePage 2020)

Fr. Michael: As sisters and brothers gathered in the name of the Lord, we pray Almighty God

People: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom 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**

Fr. Michael: And now with all the saints in heaven and those on this good earth, we worship the Lord as we say...Glory to God in the highest,

People: **and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God**

**and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

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

Fr. Michael: Almighty Lord, no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid, Jesus Christ the Lord. We confess that we have not been able to finish building upon this foundation in such a way that we may become dwelling-places for the Lord. We have sometimes been cause of its ruin. Even if our work should be lost, save us and give us a fresh chance to work for unity and create in us an ardent longing for the unity of the Church and enable us to work towards that goal. **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 42: 1-9) 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. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. 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: 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, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 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

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Lord, we cry in the wilderness; the land we walk is rough and rugged and we find no straight highways, only deep valleys and high mountains. Jesus, Light to us and for all nations, grasp us by the hand. Open the eyes of the blind, bring prisoners from their cells. Come to us with your power and might and like a shepherd gather us as lambs in your arms. **Amen**

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 29.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the

Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

All: **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Reader: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

All: **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Reader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

All: **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Reader: 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. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

All: **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Reader: The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

All: **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Reader: Our New Testament reading for this day is taken from the Book of Acts (Acts 10:34-43)

Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Today, we celebrate a special baptism, that of Jesus of Nazareth. God says, "Look, see my chosen servant, the One in whom I take such delight. I have placed my Spirit on him and he will bring true justice of all nations. When Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened and the Spirit came down like a dove and a Voice was heard saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved One with whom I am delighted – listen to Him." Lord, give us ears to hear and hearts to respond today.

**Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St. Mark (St. Mark 1: 1 – 13)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily

Fr. Michael: On this the celebration of the baptism of our Lord and Saviour by John of the wilderness, we affirm our baptismal vows. Therefore, I ask, Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Fr. Michael: 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 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.**

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Fr. Michael: Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayer?

People: **I will, with God’s help.**

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Fr. Michael: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Jesus Christ?

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

Fr. Michael: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as you love your self?

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

Fr. Michael: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human person?

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

Fr. Michael: May the living and loving God be among us in power and joy this day and always.

Reader: Celebrating the One who brings the reign of God to all people, let us pray for the world God loves. For the Church God calls and for all people according to their circumstances and needs. ... God of light and darkness, through water and Word you shine your Light into the darkness of our lives. We give you thanks for this incredible gift and so we say, Lord in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God of love, your Love comes in spite of our animosity; you bring reconciliation to those who are divided. We pray for better relationships between all the peoples who constitute our beloved Canada and strengthen all of us to be reconcilers and peace-makers. Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God of hope, you walk with us through all the challenges which surround us. Wash away from us all our anxiety by your continuing and promised presence and set us free from despair. As we gather in your healing home, we ask you to bless and watch over Louise, Marjorie, Richard and Deb L., Howard, Irene, Beth, Roy, Zachariah, Sarah, Jeanette, and Cheryl....Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God of the Church and of the world, in baptism, you unite yourself to our human condition and bring your reign into reality. Bless your Church as she witnesses to you, remembering especially at this time Shane, Anne, Linda, and our Community Ministries: Centre 454; St. Luke's Table; The Well, Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, and the Refugee Ministry. We also remember the Parish of South Dundas and The Reverend Mark Lewis. We pray for all clergy under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Ottawa. Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place and motivate us to infuse the world with your justice. Lord. In your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God of wholeness, there is nothing that can separate us from your love. Inspire us to seek wholeness in mind, body and spirit and help us to offer love and encouragement to those who see life in dark ways. Help us to cherish those of our families and friends who have died in your love and peace. Lord. In your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: God who shines in the darkness, receive these prayers and those of our hearts in the name of the One who is our Light and Love, Jesus our Redeemer, Friend and Brother. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The coming of Christ was not and is not widely welcomed. Wherever there is an epiphany, there will be darkness: the darkness of the old superstitions and dogmas which will refuse to fade away gently; the darkness of pride in the half-truths we often parade and masquerade as wisdom; the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to overwhelm it; the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters and let light into our hearts and institutions. Let us confess together,

People: **Most holy and loving God, we admit before you and our sisters and brothers that we are creatures who through either foolishness or wilfulness often choose darkness over light. Here and now we surrender to you our fears and pride, our shortsightedness and our often pompous wisdom, our deep seated sin and our apathy towards any change or renewal. Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted upon others and resolve the light-starved hopes and ideals within our souls. Trusting in your grace, we pray, "Create in us a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within us"; we pray this through Christ Jesus our Saviour**

Fr. Michael: My dear ones, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to sear or blind us but to save us! Christ Jesus came into the world to save us. So, take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving and live without shame or anxiety, in Jesus' name. **Amen**  
And may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**WE SHARE THE PEACE WITH OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS**

Fr. Michael: God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all things new. Accept all that we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord for ever and ever.

**Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: It is indeed right to thank you and to praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people of every generation, and your Word endures for ever. Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and saying,

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Michael: We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it forever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon, you have made us worthy to praise you. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus at supper with his friends took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith,

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Fr. Michael: Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this wine we may participate in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving. May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love and strengthened in our will to serve others, and make our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever.

Amen

Fr. Michael: And now, as Christ has gifted it to his Church, so we pray, "Our Father, who art in Heaven

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: We break the bread, and that bread is the light of the world.

People: **God here among us, Light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF LIFE AND HOPE WITH ONE ANOTHER**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, Lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, and in the sharing of his body and blood one in the communion of his

Spirit. Help us to grow in our love for one another and come to our full maturity in the Body of Christ. We ask this in his blessed name.

**Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Church is not a place, it is a people. The Church is not only a steeple above the treeline, streets and cars. Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and justice. The Church is not walls built stone upon stone held together by mortar, but rather person linked with person of all ages and genders and abilities – a community built on the foundation of reason, faith and love, rooted in the life and witness and ministry of Jesus. The Church is simply a building, a steeple, a pew. The Church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, fears. Love and hope in our resilient hearts, gathering however we can to say to the world: “welcome, come in, lay down your heartache and pick up hope and love.” For the Church is US – and every one of US – together – a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it.

(The Reverend Margaret Weiss, Unitarian Universalist Association 2021)

Fr. Michael: God’s people have celebrated all that the Lord has done, from creation to the cross, to the saints who have lived among us, to the saints that we are. Now go from this place to the work place, the home place, the market place...every place living as God’s own people in the blessing and love of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.

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