



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Sunday 10th January 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

BAPTISM OF JESUS!
“Coming through the Waters!”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*Elder – Miriam Peck; Reader – Stephanie Houzet; Prayer – Rev Dr Graeme Sutton;
Organist – Roger Peck; IT & Audio – Ben Daniel*

INTROIT: TiS 717 – Give thanks!

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given
Jesus Christ his Son. (x2)

And now let the weak say, ‘I am strong,’
let the poor say, ‘I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us.’ (x2)
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

*Author: Henry Smith 1952– © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by
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GREETING AND WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come once again to be in the presence of the baptismal waters, so that we may be reminded that God’s love seeps into our lives, washes away our fears, and pours forth for all people.
Come, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Spirit of forgiveness, we breath in the fresh scent of your love. We accept you into the depths of our bodies to awaken our desire for change and displace our selfish impulses.

All: *God in spirit, you are all around and within us now. Let us exhale and release whatever we hold within that will keep us from filling our lungs and lives with your love.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As surely as you continue to draw breath, you can trust that God is entering into our life, one breath at a time, one yawn, one cloud, one breeze at a time.

In the air, as close as the air on our skin and in our body, is where forgiveness resides.

Hear the word of grace: Our sins are forgiven!

All: *Thanks be to God. Amen!*

HYMN: TiS 491 - Father welcomes all his children!

*Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.*

Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these;
life and love I have to give,
mercy for your sin.

*Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.*

In the water, in the word
in his promise, be assured:
those who are baptized and believe
shall be born again.

*Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.*

Let us daily die to sin,
let us daily rise with him,
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
live in the peace of God.

*Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.*

*Author: Robin Mann 1949- © 1989, 1992 Kevin Mayhew Ltd
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SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS, NOTICES

SPECIAL TIME WITH CHILDREN

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Reader: "Your Word O Lord is a lamp to our feet".

ALL: "A light to our path."

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 1:1–5 (NRSV)

Days of Creation

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

text: Tim Tennent, Julie Tennent

Permission is granted to use these metrical settings for public worship with acknowledgement of the source: <http://psalms.seedbed.com/psalm-29/>

metre: 11.11.11.11 recommended by writers: St Denio (aka Joanna);
Foundation (possibly not known) (Tune: TIS 143)

1Ascribe to the Lord, all you ones of great might;
Ascribe to the Lord glory, strength in your sight.

2Ascribe to Him glory, and His name adore;
In splendor of holiness, worship the Lord.

3The voice of the Lord is above the great sea;
He thunders in glory; o'er waters is He!

4The voice of the Lord, full of power and might;
His voice is majestic and flaming in light.

5The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars in two;
The cedars of Lebanon, He does subdue.

6The Lord makes all Lebanon skip like a deer.
Mount Hermon is like a young ox when He's near.

7The voice of the Lord strikes with flashing of light.

8His voice shakes the desert of Kadesh with might.

9The voice of the Lord strips the forests all bare;
And all in His temple, His glory declare.

10The Lord sits enthroned o'er the flood – He is King.
The Lord on His throne sits forever as King.

11The Lord gives His people His strength without cease.
The Lord is the One who will bless them with peace.

Acts 19:1–7 (NRSV)

Paul in Ephesus

19 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them,

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷ altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1:4–11 (NRSV)

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Reader: “Lord, may your word live in us.”

ALL: “*And bear much fruit to your glory!*”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD: “Coming through the Waters!”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN: TiS 494 – In water we grow!
In water we grow, secure in the womb,

and speechlessly know love’s safety and room.
Baptizing and blessing we publish for good
the freeing, caressing safe keeping of God.

In water we wash: the dirt of each day,
its trouble and rush are carried away.
In Christ re-created by love’s cleansing art,
self-will and self-hatred dissolve and depart.

In water we dive, and cannot draw breath,
then surface alive, rebounding from death.
Our old self goes under, in Christ dead and drowned.
We rise, washed in wonder, by love clad and crowned.

In water we dwell, for by its deep flow
through bloodstream and cell, we live, think, and grow.
Praise God, love outflowing, whose well of new birth
baptizes our knowing, and waters the earth.

Author: Brian Arthur Wren 1936- © 1996 Hope Publishing.

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OFFERING

God who moves in, around and through the waters, we remember you are near and dedicate a gift of gratitude to you, for your use.
We have worked to collect and recollect abundance.
We have toiled and felt the weight of futility.
But we come now in earnest hope and faith to offer what we have, do what we can, and let go of the outcome. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Followed by the Lord’s Prayer)

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours***

now and forever! Amen!

SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: TiS 420 – Holy Spirit, go before us!

Holy Spirit, go before us, every mind and heart prepare
for good news of life in Jesus, for the joyful hope we share.
Gently lead the lost to safety, gently teach them wisdom's way,
till they come to seek you gladly, till we find the words to say.

Holy Spirit, come and help us, give us words to speak of Christ.
Teach us how to tell all people: deepest darkness can be light!
Help us tell how faithful God is, and how Jesus sets us free;
take our words, and make them gospel, so that many may believe.

Holy Spirit, stay to show us how to serve as Christ served us.
May our words of love be grounded in love's actions, first and last.
Your good news is news of justice, and the strong befriend the weak
in your service, till compassion builds the peace the nations seek.

Author: Elizabeth J Smith 1956.

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BLESSING

One: And now we share in a common practice of blessing one another.
Please join in as the words of the blessing become familiar. We will
repeat it two times.

**All: *We may fail; God does not.
We may end; God does not.
Bless and be blessed. (x 2)***

One: And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
with you now and always!

All: *Amen!*

DISMISSAL SONG: TiS 666 – We are marching in the light of God!

We are marching in the light of God. (x4)

We are marching, marching, we are marching Oo...

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching Oo...

We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the light of God. (x4)

We are living, living, we are living Oo...

We are living in the light of God.

We are living, living, we are living Oo...

We are living in the light of God.

We are moving in the power of God. (x4)

We are moving, moving, we are moving Oo...

We are moving in the power of God.

We are moving, moving, we are moving Oo...

We are moving in the power of God.

South African traditional tr. Anders Nyberg 1955-.

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May you have a grace abounding 2021.

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