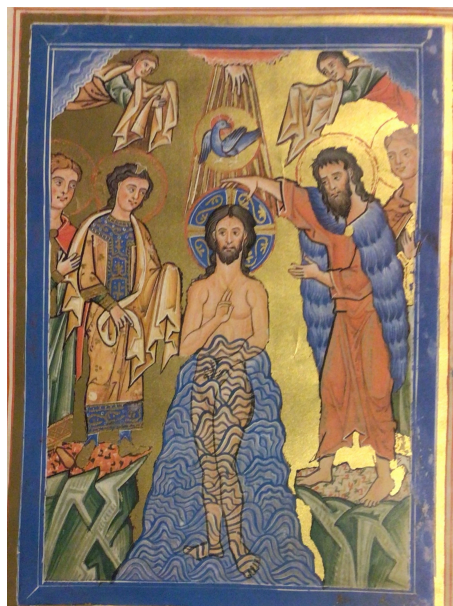


St Andrew's and St George's West

Order of Service

9 January 2022

Baptism of our Lord



Gathering Music: *Pastorale* J S Bach BWV 590

Welcome and Introduction

Call to worship

Leader: God makes himself known.

All: **We recognise ourselves as the humanity loved by God.**

Leader: God's voice is heard.

All: **We hear that all humanity is loved by God.**

Leader: God's care of all is promised.

All: **We take on responsibility for loving everyone.**

Leader: God is deserving of our praise and our loyalty.

All: **We worship him together.**

HYMN 120 God, we praise you

God, we praise you. God, we bless you.
God, we name you sovereign Lord.
Mighty King whom angels worship,
Father, by your church adored:
All creation shows your glory,
Heaven and earth draw near your throne
Singing "Holy, holy, holy,
Lord of hosts and God alone!"

True apostles, faithful prophets,
Saints who set their world ablaze,
Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded,
Join one growing song of praise,
While your church on earth confesses
One majestic Trinity:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
God our hope eternally.

Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Everlasting Son of God,
Humble was your virgin mother,
Hard the lonely path you trod:
By your cross is sin defeated,
Hell confronted face to face,
Heaven opened to believers,
Sinners justified by grace.

Christ, at God's right hand victorious,
You will judge the world you made,
Lord, in mercy help your servants
For whose freedom you have paid:
Raise us up from dust to glory,
Guard us from all sin today;
King enthroned above all praises,
Save your people, God, we pray.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of the ancient and the modern, of the wondrous and the mundane, of the known and the unknown, we enter your presence today with expectation: to know you better, to learn with our friends and family, to experience your presence, and to feel the assurance that in your hands all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

We come with questions in our minds, pondering thoughts in our hearts: Why is your beautiful world, so teeming with life and potential, in such a state that our own existence is at threat? How have we let such a thing come to pass? Why do so many who profess faith act as though their neighbours are enemies? How has the teaching of Jesus become so distorted that it has become a symbol for many for self-centred action? Where are you in all of this messiness?

And when we are honest with ourselves we know that we are a part of it all our own decisions or failures to act protect the status quo and cause the harm that we lament.

Forgive us, God of creation, and let your Spirit move in our lives, bringing fresh perspectives, renewed zeal, and a desire to lift one another up to become a people with whom you will be well pleased.

O God, who has given to your servants in every generation the gifts of courage, faith and cheerfulness, and has sent people out to carry the word of your gospel to every creature, grant, we pray, a like spirit to your church, even at this present time.

Further in all things the purpose of our congregation, that hidden things may be revealed to us, and new ways found to touch the lives of all. May we preserve with each other sincere charity and peace, and if it be your holy will, grant that a place of your abiding be continued still to be a sanctuary and a light. Through Jesus Christ our lord who taught us when we pray to say together...

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

The stories of the fonts (Colin and Friedhelm)

HYMN 336 Christ is our light

Christ is our light! the bright and morning star
covering with radiance all from near and far.
Christ be our light, shine on, shine on we pray
into our hearts, into our world today.

Christ is our love! baptised that we may know
the love of God among us, swooping low.
Christ be our love, bring us to turn our face
and see in you the light of heaven's embrace.

Christ is our joy! transforming wedding guest!
Through water turned to wine the feast was blessed.
Christ be our joy; your glory let us see,
as your disciples did in Galilee.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43: 1-7. Restoration and protection promised

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

HYMN 722 Spirit of God

Spirit of God, come dwell within me.
Open my heart, oh, come set me free.
Fill me with love for Jesus, my Lord,
come, fill me with living water.
*Jesus is living, Jesus is here.
Jesus, my Lord, come closer to me:
Jesus, our Saviour, dying for me,
and rising to save his people.*

Lord, how I thirst, my Lord, I am weak.
Lord, come to me, you alone do I seek.
Lord, you are life and love and hope,
come, fill me with living water.

Lord, I am blind, my Lord, I can't see.
Stretch out your hand, bring comfort to me.
Lead me your way in light and in truth,
come, fill me with living water.

Sermon

Anthem 'Think of How God Loves You' by James MacMillan

Prayers for Others

HYMN 334 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh ;
awake and hearken for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin ;
make straight the way for God within ;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty Guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward ;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch out your hand, to heal our sore,
and make us rise to fall no more ;
once more upon your people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

BENEDICTION (Spoken in German)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Sending Music: *In dir ist Freude* J S Bach BWV 615

Worship Leaders: Colin Douglas and Friedhelm Voges

Organist/ pianist: James McNeill

Reader: Dorothy Tarrant

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott, Amy Marcham

Sources:

Image: The baptism of Jesus, Courtesy of Friedhelm Voges

Scripture readings: New Revised Standard Version

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