



Chet Valley Churches



Holy Communion: Baptism of Christ

10th January 2021

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,
and also with you.

♪ **Hymn: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save***

**Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Saviour whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkèdst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go:
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**



🙏 **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God, to whom 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.

Prayers of Penitence

By the mercies of God let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make his face to shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be made known on the earth, your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria (Anderson)

Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo.

**Lord God, Heavenly King, peace you bring to us;
We worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise.**

Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo.

**Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.**

Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo.

**At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,
For you alone are the Holy One, and you alone are the Lord.**

Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria👐👐, gloria👐👐, in excelsis Deo.

**Glory, Father and Son, Glory, Holy Spirit,
To you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.**

**Gloria🙌🙌, gloria🙌🙌, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria🙌🙌, gloria🙌🙌, in excelsis Deo.**

🙏 The Collect

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

The Liturgy of the Word

📖 First reading: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

For the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

🎵 Hymn: Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining

**Lord, the light of your love is shining;
In the midst of the darkness, shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Shine, Jesus, shine...

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Shine, Jesus, shine...

 **Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11**

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you O Lord.

John the baptiser 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.'

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk [Rev David]

Another year has begun, another opportunity given to us to reset our goals. Yet we are still struggling with the pandemic which has now been threatening us for a full year. What have we learnt from the past twelve months which might help us thrive in 2021?

Perhaps one thing we have had to re-discover is the art of real communication. Learning to communicate with our family, friends and neighbours has helped so many to cope with the lockdowns endured. Words that in 2019 were only known to a limited number of people have become common and taken their place in dictionaries. Words and phrases such as 'lockdown', 'Zoom' and 'social distancing' for instance. We have also realised that we humans require the touch of others to thrive; and that is something which has been missing for so many. Perhaps we also need to look ahead and, to quote T S Eliot:

*For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.*

Whose voice?

The sound of another's voice is reassuring. As a Christmas present this year our grand-daughter received a wonderful piece of technology: in a way it can be seen as an updated, modern version of a tape-recorder. It is a veritable box of tricks which, to quote its blurb, is "...the new audio system for children. Turn it on, pop a figure on and simply let the audio adventure begin. It's all in one box: a Creative-figure ... with room for 90 minutes, so you can upload your MP3s, audiobooks or even narrate your own stories." Plus, you can add other stories which have been pre-recorded. For me it was lovely to have recorded one of my grand-daughter's Welsh books so that she could listen to it. And she knows that it's my voice. Something I'm pleased about since her father's voice and mine have on occasions been mistaken for each other's, much to our mutual amusement.

In our reading from Mark's gospel we read of God's voice being heard at Jesus's baptism. Mark has no real preamble. In Chapter 1 verse 9 we read: "Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan." That's it. Then, in verses 10 and 11, "As he (Jesus) was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the

Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” I often wonder how that voice sounded, but however it was, it conveyed the great truth to Jesus about who he was.

It is something that stays with Jesus throughout his earthly ministry, come what may. In the same way the stories we hear have a resonance for us. Something that is apparent in our first reading: the story of creation. Ben Quash writes this about the opening verses of Genesis: “When and why do we tell stories of origins? I was once helped to appreciate the story of creation (he says) by imagining Noah telling it to his family in the dark confines of the ark, when their world had been all but completely destroyed.”

I wonder if that is how we feel after this rather traumatic year? A world turned on its head, perhaps not destroyed in the way that the Flood covered the earth, but still so different that we may wonder how the future will emerge.

Jesus’s baptism reminds us that the Son of God went into the water because of our sinfulness and came out with the promises that a new creation was about to dawn. To quote Ben Quash again: “No chaos is greater than God’s power to make. If God can make a world from nothing, then God can heal the world (our 2021 world) however catastrophically it seems to be falling back into chaos.”

Thanks be to God for that.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

As a focus for our prayers, I'm using a picture of sunflowers. They are such bright, joyful flowers and don't we need that during the dark winter days? Sunflowers turn their faces towards the sun in the sky. At the beginning of this new year, let us turn our faces towards God's Son as we pray.

Firstly, let's pray for the world. Medical news is generally dismal, political news isn't much better and many countries are facing hardship and uncertainty. We pray for all who seek to bring peace, hope and new beginnings.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church both worldwide and local. We pray that all who profess the Christian faith may reach out to others with comfort and hope; the hope we have in Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, wherever that may be, with its needs, cares and concerns. Just take a moment to pray for your place, and the people alongside whom you live.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with illness or frailty or unhappiness. We pray especially for those who care for them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally, we pray for our own needs, bringing before God our joys, our sadnesses, our longings and maybe our loneliness.

Merciful Father,

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

♪ **Hymn: For I'm Building a People of Power**

**For I'm building a people of power,
And I'm making a people of praise
That will move through this land by my Spirit,
And will glorify my precious name.**

**Build your church, Lord, make us strong, Lord,
Join our hearts, Lord, through your Son.
Make us one, Lord, in your body,
In the kingdom of your Son.**

Preparation of the Table

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose willing submission to the way of righteousness is the pattern of our calling to be his people and live in his way.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

**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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.



♪ **Hymn: Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine**

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my saviour all the day long.*

**Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

This is my story, this is my song...

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

This is my story, this is my song...

**Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my saviour am happy and bless'd,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

This is my story, this is my song...

The Dismissal

God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be amongst you and remain with you,
and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

