



# Morning Worship: Baptism of Christ

9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Chet Valley Churches

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

♪ **Hymn: *Come Down O Love Divine***

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, 'til earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,  
And lowliness become mine inner clothing:  
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace, 'til he become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.



✝ **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.

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; [Repeat]**

**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; [Repeat]**

**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; [Repeat]**

**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; [Repeat]**

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

**Gloria, 🙌🙌 gloria, 🙌🙌 in excelsis Deo; [Repeat]**

## 🙏 **A Prayer for the Day**

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.**



## **New Testament Reading: 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 baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

For the Word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

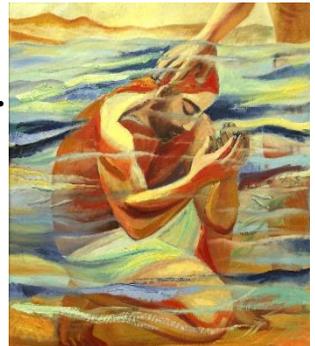
### **Hymn: Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining**

**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.**

**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.**



## **Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

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 Luke.  
**Glory to you O Lord.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. 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 with us for nigh on two years; and looks to be with us for many months to come. How we have reacted, and how we continue to respond to the ever-changing requirements laid upon us will affect how we are.

Uncertainty is a fact of life, yet the majority of us prefer some sense of planning. Arranging an event or a visit and then having to either amend or cancel it is both disappointing and frustrating. Whilst I can, if push comes to shove, do many things on the spur of the moment I take after my late father in wanting to have some semblance of plan in place for what would be good to do. Those who know me best may well agree that I'm not a great one for surprises. But one thing I know is that life is full of revelation and surprises which we have to deal with.

As a teenager I read the Tolkien trilogy of Lord of the Rings. I recall wanting to continue late into the night reading each chapter, wanting to discover the outcome of each part of the quest. It was therefore with a sense of expectation that I waited for the release of each part of the trilogy when they were made into films by Peter Jackson. Thinking back it is probably the only time that I have done so—the much delayed release of the James Bond movie didn't have the same effect at all!

There are many situations in the books and film where characters or events are not immediately who or what they appear. In the Lord of the Rings perhaps one such is the revelation that Strider, the taciturn Ranger of

the North, met at The Prancing Pony in Bree turns out to be Aragorn— heir of Isildur, King of Gondor.

Today's reading, the first Sunday in Epiphany, is one of expectation and revelation. Luke tells us that, "As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah..." John gives them a rather vivid response making it clear that he isn't, but describes the character of the one who is. We have a very brief account then that Jesus is baptised. He immediately spends times in prayer. It is at that moment that Luke, along with the other gospel writers, tells us a revelation occurred. A dove descended and a voice announced: "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." Or as Eugene Peterson has this verse in *The Message*: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." This man is marked out as not only a human being but also as God's Son. Imbued with God's love and God's pride.

This revelation is fundamental to Jesus's ministry and what we read later in the Gospel accounts but it also of significance to how we might respond to who Jesus is and what our own journey of faith might reveal to us and to others. To hear God say to us, as to Jesus, that we are loved and that we are pleasing; that we are created by God and that is why God chooses to redeem us. Not because we are worthy but out of generous love.

## **Affirmation of Faith**

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.**



**Believe**

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us worship the Saviour with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father. The magi came from the east to worship your Son: Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration.

*Silence*

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds.

*Silence*

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and his Christ: Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world.

*Silence*

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer.

*Silence*

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families and all communities of which we are a part.

*Silence*

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in fellowship of all the saints we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

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

## **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.  
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.**

### **♪ Hymn: *Do Not Be Afraid for I Have Redeemed You***

**Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**When you walk through the waters I'll be with you,  
You will never sink beneath the waves.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**When the fire is burning all around you,  
You will never be consumed by the flames.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
Remember I am at your side.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
Remember you are precious in my eyes.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

**You are mine, oh my child; I am your father,  
And I love you with a perfect love.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.**

## 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.

**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***

**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,  
Praising my saviour all the day long: [Repeat]**

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

**This is my story...**

**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...**

## 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.**

