



**Church at Home for The First Sunday After The Epiphany.
The Baptism of our Lord.
10th January 2021**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour. Amen

(Collect for The First Sunday after the Epiphany)

As we enter the third, and hopefully the last lock down, we pray for all people, that they may have the patience and the faith to see this lock down patiently through to the end, to abide by the rules and to keep not only themselves safe but care for others, who are in a less fortunate position than themselves. Amen.

Prayers

As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still; to breath slowly; to re-centre our scattered senses upon the presence of God. Blessed Lord, you are great, the heavens speak of your glory. You do wonders in heaven and we see the signs on earth. We worship you today, accept our worship in Jesus name. As we continue in today's service, we want to see your great presence. Let every one of us encounter you in a different way.

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Here are the Bible readings for The First Sunday after the Epiphany:

Genesis 1:1-5 – In the Beginning when God created the heavens and the earth ...

Acts 19:1-7 – Receipt of the Holy Spirit

Mark 1:4-11 – Baptism of Jesus by John

Psalms 29 – Afferte Domino

Suggested Hymns.

[Here am I to Worship](#)

[O for a Thousand Tongues](#)

[The Servant King](#)

[To God be the Glory](#)

Gospel Reading Mark 1:4 – 11

[Jesus is Baptised](#)

[Jesus' Baptism \(Kids on the Move\)](#)

This is a long reading and mini sermon

[Ultimate Repentance - \(via Craft of Preaching\)](#)



Gospel – A Reflection.

In Mark's Gospel passage we learn that Jesus' cousin, John, was down in the water of the river Jordan baptizing. Crowds were flocking to him there to be washed in the river. John the Baptist was quite a character, wearing camel hair and eating wild locusts. He stood as God's messenger--a prophet, even an angel, maybe -- calling us to open our hearts, repent, and prepare for the coming of Christ.

John understood the power and symbolism of water, with its deep roots in the Jewish tradition, bathing in water as a ritual of cleansing, purity and holiness both physically and spiritually. For those who went down into the water and came up out of it, it was a sign of repentance, that the past was washed away, a sign of embracing a new life, cleansed and made whole by the grace of God.

So, knowing this, Jesus sought John out at the Jordan. Jesus deliberately went down to the water, to a place where God's power and love were being proclaimed and asked to be baptized.

Now I know it's our tradition to baptize infants. Yet even when we baptize a young adult or a grown-up person, we only usually sprinkle a little water on their forehead. No full body dunking in a muddy river. And that's a shame, in some ways, because we've lost this sense of a major life transition, a full-bodied experience of baptism as a turning point in life. We miss the full body experience of the water ... whether it's in a river, an ocean, or comes from a baptismal font right here at church. The water that symbolizes God's love that pours out over all of us, available all the time, to change us, transforming our lives, from messed up to cleaned up, from dead to alive, from sinners to forgiven.

For me, part of the power of the act of baptism is that, spiritually speaking, it does not happen only once in our lives and then it's over. That water is only the beginning. As we mature spiritually, the need for cleansing our hearts and our minds, going deeper into to understand and shed our self-centred and sinfulness, is a life-long journey. Like washing our hands is not a once in a lifetime event.

I wonder if Jesus, too, throughout his adult life, in the time away he took away from the noise and the crowds for prayer, was doing that spiritually cleansing soul searching. As followers of Jesus Christ, each on our own spiritual journey, we are following in his footsteps every step of the way.

On this, the first Sunday in Epiphany, we're reminded that it all gets started down at the river when Jesus' baptism marked the start of his ministry. We, too, are introduced to God's love in the water of our baptism as a rite of welcome and initiation into the Church, but then we stand in the water of that river all the rest of our days. Every time we participate in a baptism, it's a reminder of our own baptism promises, whether we made them ourselves, other spoke them for us, or we recommitted to them at our confirmation.

And no one stands without need of this cleansing, this forgiveness and transformation, in their lives. Everyone is in need, and everyone welcome. So, come and walk in Jesus' footsteps ... following, learning, growing.

Amen.

For our prayers, let us remember:

- Hospital staff treating patients suffering from COVID 19.
- Those in Care Homes.
- People who are lonely in lock down.
- Our Congregation and local people in need.

A simple and beautiful Prayer.

When you wake up say: Jesus I love You.

When leaving the house say: Jesus come with me.

When you feel like crying say: Jesus hug me.

When you feel happy say: Jesus I adore you

When you do something say: Jesus help me.

When you make a mistake say: Jesus forgive me

When you go to sleep say: Thank you Jesus and cover me with your holy mantle.

Pass this prayer to the people you care about.

God loves you!

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven, 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.

Hymn:

[Waiting Here for YOU](#)
[On Jordan's Bank](#)

[Father God I wonder](#)

Let's end our time with The Church at Home by joining in the words of The Grace. Reach out your hands to include all those you know and love.

The words are as follows:- (Sing along with the Music [The Grace - Sung](#))

May the Grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the spirit be with us.

(Sing Twice)

The Lord bless us and keep us, his face shine upon us, His grace and His peace rest on us. (Sing Three Times)

May the Grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the spirit be with us.

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Activities for the whole family

The Baptism of Christ.

The Bible Story for Children.
We asked the Children to tell us
the story of Jesus being Baptised
in their own words.

[The Baptism of Christ](#)

or

[Animated Baptism of Christ](#)



“For we were all
baptized by one Spirit
into one body-
whether Jews or
Greeks, whether
slaves or free-and we
were all made to
drink of one Spirit.”

(1 Corinthians 12:13)

“I baptize you with
water for repentance,
but he who is coming
after me is mightier
than I, whose sandals
I am not worthy to
carry. He will baptize
you with the Holy
Spirit and fire.”

(Matthew 3:11)



Jesus' Baptism Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L	R	S	J	T	N	U	L	L	A	F	A	C	I	D
U	I	T	A	O	I	Q	U	A	T	U	E	R	I	O
L	G	R	E	R	R	E	C	J	O	H	N	I	T	V
N	H	L	L	A	M	D	O	N	S	E	Q	U	I	E
N	T	N	S	E	Q	U	A	S	C	I	L	L	A	N
D	E	E	V	E	L	E	X	N	R	I	R	I	U	R
L	O	O	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	I	T	E	R
S	U	M	I	N	E	N	D	R	E	T	A	T	V	E
I	S	N	I	A	T	B	H	E	N	G	S	M	O	D
T	N	O	N	S	E	D	E	U	G	A	A	M	V	E
L	E	I	Q	U	A	T	N	O	N	L	E	C	T	E
T	S	O	N	O	L	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	D	U
Z	S	I	T	E	U	F	E	U	G	L	I	T	V	U
L	A	O	R	E	M	O	W	A	T	E	R	T	E	R
B	E	L	O	V	E	D	D	R	E	E	A	T	V	E

BAPTIZED	BELOVED	DOVE	
GALILEE	HEAVENS	JOHN	JORDAN
RIGHTEOUSNESS	SON	WATER	