



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Baptism of the Lord
January 10th, 2021

A Voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

Opening Hymn #121 ~ *Christ, When for us You were Baptized*

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.

God called you his beloved Son, called you his servant true,
sent you his kingdom to proclaim, his holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed his call
freely as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find.

Invitation to Worship

In the beginning, God created heavens and earth. The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters; then God said: Let there be light, and God saw that it was good. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John. The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove; then God said: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Word of God

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.*

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

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 Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Old Testament

[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.

The Psalm

[Psalm 29](#)

Afferte Domino

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 **The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The New Testament

[Acts 19:1-7](#)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He 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." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 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." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Gospel

[Mark 1:4-11](#)

John the baptizer 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."

The Sermon **The Rev. John Beach**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Baptized into the covenant established by Christ, let us offer our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Servant in whom God delights.

We Pray for the Church; that we who have been baptized into Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit may serve the world in doing good to all.

Silence

Lord in your Mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for this country; that prayerful voices may call us to reconciliation and continue to speak out fearlessly until justice is established.

Silence

Lord in your Mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray those living under oppression, affliction, or in any need. We lift up particularly Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, Carolyn Chadsey, Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Jim Dockery, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Claire Errico, Joanne Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Gary Goodwin, Estelle Heath, Bruce Higgins, Michele Hoelzl, Janet Horrigan, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Bill Jackson, (Baby) Autumn Ladder-Bush, Dennis Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Lisa Lancaster, Paige Littlehale, Elaine McLellan, Matt, Lori M., Linda Marquis, Harriet Miraglia, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Debbie Rossetti, Bill St. Clair, David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Jeanne Seaboyer, Bo Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail Smith, Victoria Smith, Linda Sullivan, Meghan Tapley, Walter, Susan Webb, Rachel, and Candace Wormstead and others we now name before you (*silence*). That light given to us at baptism may be fanned into flame by the witness and support of the community of believers.

Silence

Lord in your Mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have been bruised by racism may not be broken by despair, but find new hope in all of us who follow Jesus, the Servant of justice.

Silence

Lord in your Mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died; whom God has taken by the hand in death, especially those we now name, PFC Richard D. Devine, Jr. and Robert & Anne Russell, may they see the heavens opened and hear God's voice calling them beloved sons and daughters.

O Christ, light that made manifest as the true light of God, gladden our hearts on the joyful morning of your glory; call us by our name on the great Day of your coming; and give us grace to offer, with all the hosts of heaven, unending praise to God in whom all things find their ending, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
All **We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Anthem

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts Holy

God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation new. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him who is Lord for ever and ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right to do so.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

Celebrant In Christ we have received the Spirit of adoption. Now, as sons and daughters of God we dare to say:

People and Celebrant

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Behold the true Light of the world, the Beloved of God, anointed by the Spirit. Blessed are those called to the banquet of the Lamb.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ. We ask this in his name.

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen

The Blessing

Celebrant Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Your law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Concluding Hymn #448 ~ *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* (Verses 1-3 & 6)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing
thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of
God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us he was baptized, and bore his holy
fast, and hungered sore; for us temptations
sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
daily works he wrought: by words and signs and
actions, thus still seeking not himself, but us.

All glory to our Lord and God for love so
deep, so high, so broad; the Trinity whom
we adore forever and forevermore.

Dismissal

Celebrant Enlightened by Christ and anointed by the Spirit, go now in peace to love
and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Saugus United Parish Food Pantry

For those wanting to contribute items for the Food Pantry: they are still accepting food donations at their location at Clifftondale Congregational Church, 50 Essex Street, Saugus. The pantry is open Fridays mornings – specific times/details are posted at their church website.

Counting

We will be counting this month on Sunday, January 24th. If you have a pledge, memorial, or other gift, kindly forward it to the office before the 24th. Thank you!

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