



**Sunday January 7, 2024
The Baptism of our Lord**

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome & Opening Greeting (Please remain seated.)

We Gather.

One: In the beginning, God...

All: Swept over waters, spoke light into existence, created day and night and called it good.

One: As the days and nights of creation filled with life, God...

All: Made humanity out of the dirt to love and tend creation, to be loved and tended by God.

One: As we lost our way, God...

All: Sent Jesus, Love Incarnate, to show us the way back.

One: On the day Jesus came to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized, God...

All: Declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

One: Let us, then, follow Jesus into the waters, remembering our baptism in which God...

All: Claims us as beloved children, the family of God.

(Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, 2023.)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Processional Hymn

When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known

CP 163

Land Acknowledgement

Together we say

The Township of Uxbridge is situated on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Chippewa (Anishinaabe) people. We acknowledge that these lands are covered under the Williams Treaties and are home to many Indigenous communities. We honour, recognize, and respect this nation and

Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we now live, work, and play. (Township of Uxbridge)

Litany for Baptism of our Lord:

One: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

All: **From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.**

One: From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children

All: **Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.**

One: Let us give thanks for God's abundant love, poured out on us in Baptism.

All: **May we live out our Baptism in this world through the power of God's love.**

(www.adventagusta.org)

The Gloria

Glory to God

CP 702

Collect of the Day

Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.** (Ruth C. Duck)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

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. (NSRVA)

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Alleluia

CP 405

*"Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name."*

Holy Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Reader: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey. As he preached he said, “The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will change your life. I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out.” At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God’s Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.” *(The Message)*

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gradual Alleluia

CP 405

*“Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.”*

Reflection

Contemplative Pause

People: God, we hear and receive your words of hope and encouragement and with thoughtful gladness we sing.

Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness (vs 1)

CP 447

*“Lord we hear your word with gladness: you have spoken – we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom – help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.”*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

One: [Siblings] in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God’s people, you have learned from his Word God’s loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us profess our faith of our baptism in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptise (and today renew our baptismal covenant). (<https://www.adventaugusta.org>)

One: Do you believe in God the [Parent]?

All: I believe in God, the [Parent] almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the [Parent]. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

One: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

One: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

All: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

All: I will, with God's help. Amen. (<https://www.anglican.ca/faieth/ministry/baptised>)

Choir Anthem

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ; but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call. (Silence) Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love. (Silence) Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world. (Silence) Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life, but we refuse the struggle to know your will; we do not nurture the ways of peace; we allow enmity to grow among us, setting neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse the earth you entrust to our care, and live in discord with all you have made. (Silence) Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us but we rely on ourselves and refuse to trust your direction. We spurn your eternal wisdom, Preferring, instead, the luring ways of the world. (Silence) Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises you made to us in baptism, **forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is of the New Creation. The old life is finished, gone. Behold, new life has begun. [Siblings], believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/>)

The Peace

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

God of constant love, in this eucharist you renew the covenant made once with us in baptism. As you are faithful in all things, may we, in our offering, be faithful to our calling. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

One: May the God of glory be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

One: People of God, offer your hearts to God.

All: **We give them to the One who comes to redeem us.**

One: People of God, sing songs of praise and joy.

All: **We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism, and who feeds us at the Table of hope.** (<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>)

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfilment of your promise you pour forth your Spirit upon us, filling us with gifts and leading us into all truth. You give us power to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

CP 732

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He, our God.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command, **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.

May your reign be a reality here on earth.

May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.

Let us share our bread with those who hunger.

Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.

Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.

For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth.

Amen. (J. Manny Santiago, 1999. From the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.)

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

Agnus Dei

CP 745

Communion

During Communion

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

CP 649

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, in baptism and the Eucharist we are made one with you. May we who have shared in holy things always bear witness to your covenant, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God, 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.

Sending forth & Blessing

As we go into the week ahead, may every water I touch remind me that I am named and claimed by God, who binds me to this community of faith, and all Christians of all times and places in love. Amen! *(Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, 2023)*

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word

CP 560

The Dismissal

Go in joy, glorifying God with our living.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude