Canon Davis Memorial Church

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Baptism of the Lord  •  January 10, 2021

Genesis 1:1-5  •   Psalm 29  •  Acts 19:1-7  •  Mark 1:4-11

Dear Friends,

The Gospel for this week brings us once again to reflect on the Baptism of our Lord.  It brings us to ponder about the nature of God and the nature of humankind and our inter-relationship with each other.  Ideally, we see all of us bonded to each other in love.

We are also starting to venture into a new year — a time for reflection and commitment.  In this we seek to be good people as people of God.  But we do this in light of our experiences over the past twelve months and more.  For many, 2020 was not a year with happy memories.  At the top of most of the troublesome lists would be the Covid-19 virus.  Our hope has been that in 2021 we will see a major decline in this coronavirus.  Happily, we are now seeing people being vaccinated.

In our relationship with God, we tend to have various images of who God is to us.  No two of us have exactly the same ideas about the nature of God.  Some spend very little time thinking about this.  Others reflect on it almost constantly.  Most Christians accept the frequently expressed view of the God as the Triune God.  This is of One God in three Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

If one searches the scripture, they will find no references to the Holy Trinity.  It simply is not named in the Bible.  So where did name come from?  Did some theologian just make it up?  We hear references to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.  But we also hear references to other aspects of God.  We hear of God as Emmanuel (God with us); Creator; and as Abba (Father).

When Jesus was Baptised, the following was reported in the first chapter of Mark about this profound event.

*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.”*

In this Biblical passage from Mark we find Jesus as the Son; the Holy Spirit in the form of a Dove; and the Voice from above, as the Father.  One God in three persons; the Holy Trinity.

In prayer and reflection, it can be helpful to keep in mind the aspects of our God.  For example, there will be times when it can be helpful to think of God as Father.  Notice how the Lord’s Prayer uses the term ‘Father’ instead of saying ‘Our God, who art in heaven…’  The intent seems to be to help us in praying to have a real sense of how God is a God who relates to us in warm compassionate loving ways of a caring father.  Our Infinite God is huge beyond measure and, yet, warmly cares enough about us to share in our lives, our hopes, our troubles and our goals.  Sometimes it can be helpful to reflect on the images we have about God, God’s involvements, and how they relate to our lives.

In good times and in times that seem not so good, God is with us. With God we live life more abundantly.  With God, life is full of surprises.  Central to it all is the love to which we are called by the one whose name we celebrate everyday of every year.

May the year 2021 be a truly blessed one for you and those you love.    —  Ray+

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You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to the link:

[tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC](http://tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC)

That is the link to St. Alban’s Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C.  Follow the instructions.  You will find links to the Rev’d Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with children’s focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon.

If you are also interested in joining their weekly Bible Study, contact Rev. Greg at revgregjenkins@gmail.com    He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group by ZOOM.  I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

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We are joining with many parishes in our deanery in providing telephone support to our members and friends.  This support is designed to keep us up to date, while not requiring a computer.  A CDMC Pastoral Letter will be read this week through our phone ministry.