

**Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Sunday, January 7, 2024 – The Baptism of the Lord**

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Officiant—Rev'd Jon Forbes

Assisted By —Tom Brown

Organist—Dorothy Miller

380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

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Prelude

Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Sentence

A voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." *Matthew 3.17*

Processional Hymn # 103

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

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

And also with you.

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.**

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading:Genesis 1: 1-5

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 (*to be read responsively*)

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

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. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

2nd Reading:Acts 19: 1-7

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

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 Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #628

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
(verses 1, 2, 3 & 7)

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Another sermon about John the Baptist? Sometimes the lectionary can take a theme too far. John is great for Advent, but Christmas too? When do we get to Jesus? We are his followers after all. And John was clear that he was not the messiah, not worthy to tie up his sandal even. So let's move on.

But wait, it seems suddenly important that the good news of Jesus Christ should start with someone else besides Jesus. It is a team effort after all, and I for one am all about team Jesus. How many times have I said we can't do this faith journey alone? If Jesus needs a team around him to get this life of faith going, then it should be ok for us too.

Remember that Jesus came to John to be baptized, not the other way around. Jesus didn't need to be forgiven his sins. He wanted to show that John was an integral part of his life and ministry. Hairshirt, locusts and all. God is always on the lookout for unlikely partners in his ongoing revelation of Love and purpose in the world.

We also need to understand that baptism is not just about a relationship with Christ. It's about the complexity of life when we worship a triune God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus experienced both the Holy Spirit, who divebombed him in the river, and the blessing of the Father who proclaimed the words we all need to hear in our baptism. "This is my child with whom I am well pleased."

This helps us get a grip on who God is to Jesus, how Jesus brings the Holy Spirit, and that we need all three aspects of God to live as disciples in this world. This my friends is Good News.

I mean how often do we need to be reminded that God loves us? Jesus needed these words. As he immediately went on to face temptation in the desert, day after day as he was tempted to doubt by encountering the suffering of the world, as he endured abuse, as he prayed to have the cup taken from him in the Garden of Gethsemane, these words of belonging through love, belonging by a bond that cannot be shaken, these words could be the basis for a life well lived in this world and the next.

Jesus' baptism experience isn't just about him in relation to the Father and Spirit, it's a picture of our place among them. How many of you remember your baptism? Not many, I guess. It's the one drawback to practicing infant baptism. We have no memories of this fantastic moment in our lives. I can recall the whole service of my baptism, who was there, what songs we sang, and the scripture preached, but mostly the moment when Rev. Ross poured the water over my head three times, kneeling on the hard ground. It was a tangible moment when the Spirit of God came over me, as I professed faith in Jesus and declared that I would worship God forever. I was transformed in that moment, and so were the folks gathered around. My sponsors, the minister, my friends and even my family.

We are children of God, those of us who are baptized. God is pleased with us. We may need some work, who doesn't? God split the heavens open for us that day, he invited a bit of heaven down to the earth in that moment. God's love will not be held back from the ones he loves.

The Father isn't pleased with the Son because the Son has earned it, it's purely out of love and because he looks upon Jesus as someone worthy of his love. The Father delights in loving him. This is God's basic posture towards us; God's delight and rejoicing over us is a message proclaimed all over the Scriptures. So as you approach the altar once again, opening yourself up to the love of God, you might hear that voice come down from heaven, just for you. "You are a child of God, with whom I am well pleased."

Jon +

The Apostles' Creed:

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 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. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear and have mercy.")

We pray for all who confess the name of Christ: fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for those whose lives are bound in mutual love, and for those who live in celibacy: be their joy and their strength.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all in danger, for those who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, victims of oppression: grant them your salvation.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who are facing trials and difficulties, for those who are sick, and those who are dying: show them your kindness and mercy.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for one another: may we always be united in service and love.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray to be forgiven our sins and set free from all hardship, distress, want, war, and injustice.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

May we discover new and just ways of sharing the goods of the earth, struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern: may we all live by the abundance of your mercies and find joy together.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

May we be strengthened by our communion with all Christ's saints.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for...
Donna, Bill, Ruth

Prayer for a Renewed Church

Almighty God, give us a new vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power, and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your Church in this nation and at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit, we can do it to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confession and Absolution: 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.

The Confession: Most merciful God,
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.

Absolution: 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn # 644

Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Prayer over the Gifts

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.

Eucharist Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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."

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

Give us this bread for ever.

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.**

Recessional Hymn # 505

Be Thou My Vision

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love for ever more. **Amen.**

Benediction Song *Go Now in Peace*

(found in the back of the blue hymn book)

Dismissal

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God and wishing everybody a Happy 2024, from the Hayter family.

Please enter names in the **Intercessions Book** each week to be read in the service.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week email canondavis@gmail.com or call 519-344-9531.

If you would like to contact Rev'd Jon Forbes or would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, Rev'd Jon may be reached at 1-905-818-9488 or email jonforbes@outlook.com

Please join us for **Coffee Hour** after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall.

Happy Birthday to Bill Graham, Colleen Reeve, Glen Forbes, Ginny Schleihauf, and Laura Swan from all your friends at Canon Davis Memorial Church.

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed Mac & Cheese to the Salvation Army Christmas Food Drive. It was so appreciated. We all need some help at some point in time. Sheree Lynn and Wardens.

Thank you to Donna and her daughter, Lora for the lovely duets on Christmas Eve. CDM Congregation.

Thank you for the wonderful support and the generous donations which made our first Christmas Hamper Outreach a great success and a blessing to six families at London Road Public School. The generosity of the congregation and the support from Sarnia Produce was very much appreciated. Thank you, Susan Memedovich

Upcoming Events:

Sew and Craft Day, Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the **Parish Hall**. Cost: \$20.00 and lunch is provided. Please call Carol Turner at 519-384-3015 to reserve a spot.

2024 Vestry this year is **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, after the service in the Parish Hall. **Reports are due** to Karen McBride **by January 22**. Vestry packages will be available Sunday January 28.

Reminders

17 Jan Parish Council Meeting in the Boardroom at 10:00 a.m.

20 Jan Sew and Craft Day

22 Jan Vestry Reports due

28 Jan Vestry Report for 2024 issued

Letter regarding Major Maintenance

Dear CDM Parishioners,

January 2, 2024

I would like to thank everyone for supporting our church financially in 2023. Either through giving's, fundraising activities or donations of goods.

Considering the size of our congregation, everyone has been very supportive.

This past year has been no different with Major Maintenance expenses. With the age of our building, we have had to continue to replace or refurbish.

Two of our Major Maintenance projects this year left us no choice but to go ahead with absorbing the cost.

In late April, of 2023 we had to have major work done on the Organ and Organ Chamber area at a cost of \$4,548.25.

In late November, of 2023, our boiler system went down again as it did in 2022 in the same month. As it became evident that we could not get parts for the old system that is well over 50 years, it was decided by council to go ahead and replace the aging boiler system with a new High Efficiency System at a cost of \$21,357.00. We paid out of Operations a deposit on the system of \$7,474.97 in December. On December 31, 2023 the balance of \$13,882.05 was paid to W.J. Barnes out of Operations.

ACW came through with \$6,500.00 towards the cost of the boiler for 2023.

We received \$1,200.00 from giving's towards Major Maintenance expenses this year.

This has left us with a balance outstanding for 2024 of \$17,330.30 for the two projects.

In January, 2024, we will establish an account to repay our Major Maintenance to be called Boiler Project.

Sincerely

Carol A Spence Treasurer-Envelope Secretary

Sheree Lynn Hayter Peoples Warden

John W Hayter Rectors Warden