

## First of Epiphany Baptism of Christ

Wishing you a safe and blessed season



Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
you have created the heaven and the earth.  
Blessed are you, Jesus Christ,  
you came among us and were baptised by John.  
Blessed are you, Holy Spirit,  
you descend as the dove and fill us with life.  
Blessed are you, Holy Three,  
in you we live and move and have our being.

**Amen**

Holy God, holy and strong, we thank you for the gift of baptism.  
We thank you for our own baptism and pray that we may  
know that we are always immersed in your presence.  
We give you thanks for all who have come to our churches to  
be baptised and we pray for our own godchildren and our  
godparents.

Lord of Light,  
**enlighten your people.**

We give thanks for all who are concerned with our well-being, especially in  
these difficult times.

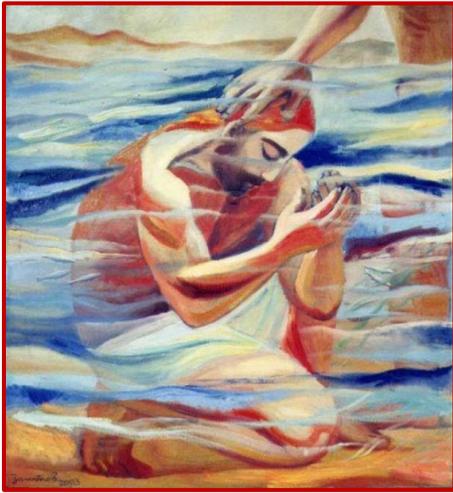
We pray for our loved ones, for all who have shared their lives with us.  
We pray also for those who have helped us on our journey of faith.

Lord of Light,  
**enlighten your people.**

We remember those who are ill with Covid-19, especially those who are  
critically ill, and we give thanks for all who care for them.

We pray for all those who are suffering poor mental health because of  
lockdown. We pray for those who have lost their confidence, for the  
anxious, the weary and the lonely.

Lord, holy and strong, give to them strength and hope.



Lord of Light,  
enlighten your people.

We give you thanks for those, who having been baptised, have kept their faith.

We pray for loved ones departed from us, may we rejoice with them as inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.

Lord of Light,  
enlighten your people. Amen

### **Our Bible readings for this week:**

#### **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.

#### **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.”



**Collect**

Heavenly Father,  
at the River Jordan you revealed Jesus as your  
Son;  
may we recognise him as our Lord  
and know ourselves as your beloved children.  
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
**Amen**

**The Baptism of Christ**

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings  
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'

In that quick light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.  
He calls us too, to step into that river  
To die and rise and live and love forever.

*(Malcolm Guite)*

**Blessing**

God, the Creator, uphold us,  
Christ the Redeemer, enfold us,  
Holy Spirit, the Comforter, guide us.

**Amen**

**“You are my Son, the Beloved,”**

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