

Reflection for the Baptism of Christ. Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22

We are now at that time of year in the lectionary where we jump backwards and forwards. Last Sunday we celebrated the Epiphany and now we are celebrating the Baptism of Christ, the point where his ministry starts, but we have not even had the presentation of Christ in the Temple which happens at the beginning of February. It is the second time in four weeks that we have verses 15-17 of Luke's Gospel because it was part of the Gospel for Advent 3, when we thought about John the Baptist and his work.

However, as last week we see the wise men indicating that Jesus had come for the whole world, not just the Israelites, so this week we see Jesus proclaimed by John and during his baptism a remarkable thing happens. All three persons of the Holy Trinity are in evidence at the same time. Jesus is there in person, God the Father proclaims him as his Son and the Holy Spirit descends on him as a dove. Jesus is being proclaimed before all by God himself.

Phil Baker



Codes for Zoom Evening Prayer, details tbc

Meeting ID: 861 6577 7243

Passcode: 202677

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 16.01.2022 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church.

READINGS: OT Isaiah 62: 1-5
NT 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
GOSPEL John 2: 1-11



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 9th January 2022

Baptism of Christ

10.30am in Church

Thanks to everybody for support and contributions over the **Christmas period**—I think we did a great job in simply keeping the church open and providing regular worship. At Midnight Mass, at least two thirds of the congregation were not regulars, so it was certainly worth the effort. We now look forward towards Lent and Easter.

I did say that we would consider again the arrangements for **Sunday worship** in the Hall or the Church, so please think about that, bearing in mind that our pre-Christmas decision was made before the arrival of the Omicron variant.

A variation of looking forward is **looking outward**. How best can we re-engage our local community in the life of the church? And a parallel one: how best can we ourselves engage in that community? They seem to me to be the big questions for us in the weeks ahead.

Fr David



Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 43.1–7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Acts 8.14–17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3.15–17,21,22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is now compulsory. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish. Please don't be embarrassed to be safe. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Coffee and tea will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **Volunteers are still required. See Judith.**

Knit and Natter January 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Begins again on Tuesday 11th January 2022. We will be comparing other religions with Christianity, new people very welcome!

Community Larder The Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon. Thanks to everyone for their generosity in 2021.

Volunteers are needed to clean the Church nave. The nave is divided up into small blocks for people to take on and clean about fortnightly. Please see Judith for details.

Flower Team. If anyone would like to join the flower team they would be most welcome. This would involve arranging flowers for various occasions and watering and dismantling them when appropriate. We are looking to form a rota. If you are interested please contact Ian.

