

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 11th January 2026

Family Worship - The Baptism of the Lord

Hello, I hope you are well. Let us worship God together:

Call to worship

Here, in the depths of winter,
just eleven days into a new year,
we gather seeking light.

Here, in these dark January days,
when Christmas joy seems already distant,
we remember a moment by the river.

The heavens opened.
The Spirit descended.
A voice spoke: "This is my beloved."

We gather to worship the God who breaks through,
who speaks into darkness,
who begins something new.
Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayers

We gather, gracious God, as your people following in the way of your Son, and in the power of your Holy Spirit. As we sing our praises, may we celebrate your faithfulness. As we offer our prayers, may we be confident of your grace. And as we offer our lives in your service, may we rejoice that we are your children for all eternity. **Amen.**

God of all the world, Jesus is your chosen Son, and we choose to follow him with our hearts and minds and spirits. Jesus is your anointed one, and we acknowledge your anointing of our hearts and minds and spirits. Jesus preached justice and remained faithful through all his trials, so, we pray for justice in our world with our hearts and minds and spirits. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

GG 21 Name of all majesty

1 Name of all majesty,
fathomless mystery,
King of the ages
by angels adored;
power and authority,
splendour and dignity,
bow to His mastery,
Jesus is Lord!

2 Child of our destiny,
God from eternity,
love of the Father
on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done
sending His only Son,
Christ the beloved One,
Jesus is Lord!

3 Saviour of Calvary,
costliest victory,
darkness defeated
and Eden restored;
born as a man to die,
nailed to a cross on high,
cold in the grave to lie,
Jesus is Lord!

4 Source of all sovereignty,
light, immortality,
life everlasting
and heaven assured;
so with the ransomed, we
praise Him eternally,
Christ in His majesty –
Jesus is Lord!

Prayers of Approach and Confession

God of new beginnings,
we come to you in these still early days of a new year,
seeking direction, hoping for renewal, resolved to new beginnings.

The lights have come down,
the celebrations have ended,
and we find ourselves in winter's darkness,
wondering what this year will bring.

We remember Jesus at the Jordan:
the water cold, the sky opening,
your Spirit descending like a gentle dove,
your voice declaring love and purpose.

We remember that Jesus' ministry began -
not with fanfare and angels,
but with water and waiting,
with obedience and courage,
with the beginning of a journey.

God of the journey, we confess
that we often prefer certainty to seeking,
answers to questions,
arrival to pilgrimage faithfulness.

We confess that we have not always been gentle.
We have not always been patient,
We have not always been persevering when we should be,
and have not always ceased when it was the right thing.
We have not stood with other lives when they wavered in the wind of struggle.
Our pocketed hands resting, not lending our strength to those barely holding on.

We confess that we have wanted to know ends from beginnings,
to have everything settled,
when you call us to walk by faith,
to say with Jesus, "Let it be so for now,"
and to trust the unfolding path.

Forgive us, God of Jordan water.
Meet us in this season of darkness and cold.
Speak your word of love over our lives.
Help us to begin again.

Through Christ, who shows us the way. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news:
God says, "I have called you;
I have taken you by the hand."

In these dark days, God's light shines.
In this new year, God makes all things new.
In Christ, we are forgiven and freed to begin again.

Thanks be to God! **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. 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.**

Family Time

R&S 200 The kingdom of God

1 The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the prisoners are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!'
to God all in all.

Bryn A. Rees (1911-83)*
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The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing

Old Testament Reading

The Servant, a Light to the Nations

42 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
2 He will not cry or lift up his voice,
 or make it heard in the street;
3 a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth;
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
5 Thus says God, the Lord,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

Isaiah 42:1-9

(OT page 610)

who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the Lord, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 3:13-17****(NT page 2)***The Baptism of Jesus*

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

R&S 134 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and in each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thy hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

Reflection*A moment for reflection while Stephen plays the organ***R&S 371 Take my life, and let it be**

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)

Our prayers of intercession

Lord of hope, we come with our joys and sorrows, our testing moments and touching moments. As we reflect on the week that's just passed, fix our thoughts on where we saw glimpses of hope. As we focus on those images, help us to see where you were at work.

We thank you for good news this week, particularly remembering...

See, he is doing a new thing among us.

Lord, bring in your kingdom and renew our hope.

Lord of hope, sometimes our world feels hope-less. We hear of wars and rumours of wars, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. Our world seems a place of confusion and unrest, especially in Venezuela and other parts of the western hemisphere. Leaders seem to grasp their power tightly and neglect justice; their words seem to be either black or white, love or hate; there seems to be no desire to compromise or understand each other. Lord of hope, you see all this and you weep. Yet, you also whisper a new way of living: the bruised and broken are tended to, justice is proclaimed, the sick are healed and the captives freed. Lord, you came to set us free. Help us to walk in that way of freedom, following your lead and bringing your justice and love to everyone we meet.

See, he is doing a new thing among us.

Lord, bring in your kingdom and renew our hope.

Lord of hope, we focus now on signs of hope within our community. We thank you for places of nurture and education, for our health services and places of recreation. We think of a particular part of our community that needs new life and hope and we wonder: Are you calling us to be the answer to our prayers? Take us out from here to be your servants, sowing seeds of hope into every place we go this week.

See, he is doing a new thing among us.

Lord, bring in your kingdom and renew our hope.

Lord of hope, we pray for our nation. We pray for those in government, that they may be people of integrity, honesty and peace. We thank you that you came in humility to be our King. May our earthly leaders follow your way of justice and love. We bring to mind a particular area of need in our country right now: give our leaders the courage and diligence to make change happen to the benefit of those who have little chance of making changes for themselves.

See, he is doing a new thing among us.

Lord, bring in your kingdom and renew our hope.

Lord of hope, at your baptism your Father declared his love and delight in you. We pray for our families now. We thank you for those who bring us joy and name them out loud or in our hearts. We pray for those family members who are causing us concern at the moment, through illness or trouble of some sort. Lord, enable us to be bringers of hope to them. We pray for those from whom we might be estranged. Lord, bring hope into our distance and bring us closer. We pray for those who have no family and long to be close to others. Give us eyes to see where there is need and to bring hope and friendship into their loneliness. And we remember those for whom family life is painful and scary. Lord, speak hope into their situations and bring them to places of safety.

See, he is doing a new thing among us.

Lord, bring in your kingdom and renew our hope.

Lord of hope, send us out into a new week refreshed by having spent time worshipping you, renewed in our zeal to bring your kingdom into every situation, startled by the joy that we glimpse unexpectedly and ready to serve you in the good times and the hard. Fill us with the hope that does not disappoint as we welcome you daily into our hearts.

Amen

R&S 573 God is working his purpose out

1 God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

2 From utmost east to utmost west,
where human feet have trod,
by the voice of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God:
'Give ear to me, you continents,
you islands give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea'.

3 What can we do to work God's work,
to prosper and increase
love and justice throughout the world,
the reign of the Prince of Peace?

What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea?

4 Let us go out in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world:
sin and sorrow let us fight
to set their captives free,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

5 All that we do can have no worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God awakens the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur C. Ainger. (1841-1919)

A sending out prayer

Holy Spirit, go with us into the world.
Re-source us with your power and your presence.
Father God, help us to know your love,
and that we are your beloved sons and daughters.
Lord Jesus Christ, help us to learn from you,
and to follow your example,
that we may share belovedness
with everyone we meet. **Amen.**

The Blessing

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be upon us and those we love,
this day and always. **Amen.**

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**