

St James's Church, Piccadilly

Eucharist for the Baptism of Christ Sunday 10th January 2021 at 11.00am

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

At 11.00am the priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The priest welcomes all to the online service and invites those attending to say where they are joining from in the YouTube chat function.

All say

Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom 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 we pray.

Amen.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The priest says

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In that light let us make our confession to God.

Silence is kept.

Ever-loving God,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you our God.

Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free. May you know you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

The cantor sings

Glory, Glory, Glory!

Glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to the people in whom God is well pleased! (rpt)

(from the Iona Community)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect (Prayer for the Day)

The priest says

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
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 now and for ever.
Amen.

Please sit

THE FIRST READING

Acts 19.1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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.' ³Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' ⁴Paul 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.'

⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1.4-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs

Silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Iona Community)

We believe in God, maker and sustainer of all life.

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place
of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven, to be
everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy
Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of
healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

led by a member of the congregation.

Please stand.

THE PEACE

The priest says

God has made us one in Christ: we meet
from north, south, east and west to share
the peace that makes us whole.

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

*Please share the peace in the chat section
of YouTube.*

HYMN

[Tune: Veni Creator Spiritus (Mechlin); Words: 9th
century translated by John Cosin (1594-1672)]

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessèd unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes; give peace at home;
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this this may be our endless song ...

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,
for us to see Jesus who prays for us there.
May we be willing to share Christ's baptism,
strengthened in your service for ever.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving
for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

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 thanks and praise.

*The priest continues the Church's prayer
of thanksgiving ...*

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

All say

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

All say

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with: "... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, all say

Amen.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Bread is broken as the priest says

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

Christ is the true bread come from heaven.
The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God,
whose Word has come among us in bread
and wine and in the Holy Child of
Bethlehem: may the light of faith shine in
our lives through the one who is Christ the
Lord. Amen.**

Notices are given by the priest.

FINAL HYMN

***Please sing along at home if you would like
to join the hymn.***

***In place of a physical collection, please
make a text donation by texting WREN20,
WREN10 or WREN5 to 70085 to donate
£20, £10 or £5 respectively.***

[Tune: Moscow; Words: John Marriot (1780-1825)]

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Christ, you have come to bring
on your redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O to all humankind
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest gives the blessing.

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring
of water welling up to eternal life,
give you peace this day.
And the blessing of God; Creator, Christ and
Holy Spirit be among you and remain with
you now and always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

***Please make an online donation to
support the work of St James's Church***

www.sjp.org.uk

Poetry for reflection in the season of Epiphany

Nativity Poem

Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996)

Imagine striking a match that night in the
cave:

Imagine crockery, try to make use of its
glaze

To feel cold cracks in the floor,
the blankness of hunger.

Imagine the desert – but the desert is
everywhere.

Imagine striking a match in that midnight
cave,

The fire, the farm beasts in outline,
the farm tools and stuff;

And imagine, as you towel your face in the
enveloping folds,

Mary, Joseph, and the Infant in swaddling
clothes.

Imagine the kings, the caravans' stilted
procession

As they make for the cave, or, rather,
three beams closing in

And in on the star, the creaking of loads,
the clink of a cowbell;

(No thronging of Heaven as yet, no peal of
the bell

That will ring in the end for the infant once
he has earned it).

Imagine the Lord, for the first time,
from darkness, and stranded

Immensely in distance, recognizing himself
in the Son

Of Man: His homelessness plain to him now
in a homeless one.

READINGS COMMENTARIES

Acts 19.1-7

The ritual washing of John the Baptist's community was reformed by him into one decisive act of baptism with water. Here, Paul is in Ephesus, explaining to the crowd that there is a Godly presence which is called the Holy Spirit and that this is an essential aspect to the initiation ceremony that baptism was becoming for the newly formed Christian communities. The development of baptism practice is evident here as the fledgling groups learn more about the meaning of Jesus's life, death and resurrection and its implications for them as believers.

Mark 1.4-11

During this calendar year, we will be reading through Mark's gospel and, like John, he begins with stories of John the Baptist as the last of the prophets before Jesus's arrival. John is already interpreting the spiritual meaning of Jesus's coming, by saying plainly "I baptise with water but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."