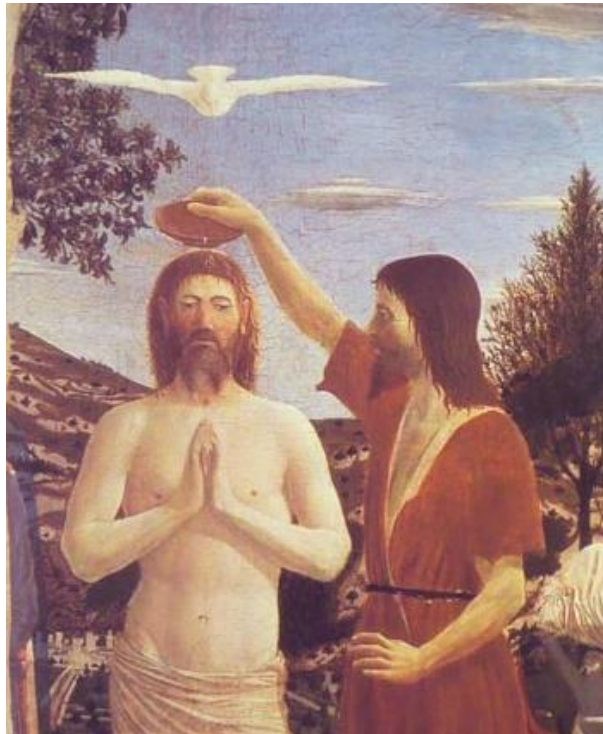


Welcome to this
Epiphany 1 - The Baptism of Christ
Sunday Communion Service



The online services are a combination the service sheet with links to Revd Steven, the hymns, music,

Instructions: Ctrl-Click on the link in blue to activate the whole recorded service with all the hymns etc. <https://youtu.be/PO5gjU1vVHM>

For the Zoom service, see notices at the end of this service sheet

Welcome

Welcome our 43th week of online services.

Hymn 1: O let the son of god enfold you

Revd Steven

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

All From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

The Lord of glory be with you.

All The Lord bless you.

Almighty 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 our Lord.
Amen.

Confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all
goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray that we may be faithful to our baptism.

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.

Gloria

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6ijmVV3GZoIE>

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

Reading 1 Genesis 1:1-5 by Cassandra

The beginning

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Reading 2 Acts 19:1-7 by Cassandra

Paul in Ephesus

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when^[a] you believed?'

They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'

³ So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?'

'John's baptism,' they replied.

⁴ Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.'⁵ On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues^[b] and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn 2 On Jordan bank the Baptist cry

Revd Steven

Gospel Reading Mark 1:4-11 by Revd Steven

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3.17

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with^[a] water, but he will baptise you with^[b] the Holy Spirit.'

The baptism and testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon from Revd Steven Poss

Sermon – The Father is revealed

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus on this first Sunday of Epiphany. This first week of 2021 has not started as we had hoped with the news of the increase in Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations and sadly deaths, together with the pictures of the events on Capitol Hill in the USA, you might ask where can we look and have hope in.

The scriptures always tend to speak to us at our time in need and this week is no exception! In our Gospel reading from Mark, we hear of the Baptism of Jesus. In the post communion prayer today, it reads *“Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son”*.

God has not spoken for 400 years, before the coming of John the Baptist. There were no prophets called by God to speak his word to the people like Isaiah and Ezekiel - the heaven's had been closed. Then, all of a sudden, God came down with the birth of his son and he begins his public ministry with this baptism!

You might ask yourself, why Jesus has to be baptised, because the baptism was for the repentance of sins, and we understand that Jesus was without sin. There have been reasons given for this by commentators, but we need to listen to the words of Jesus of the reason for this. Jesus answers in Matthew 3:15 *“Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness”*.

We understand this statement in that he has to put himself in humanity’s place in order to save it. Jesus’ humanity represents our humanity when he goes to the cross. Therefore, all of our humanity is taken by Jesus to be put on the cross in our place, so that our justified God may deal with humanity’s sin and defeat it. Only someone who is sinless can take humanity’s sin, defeat it by their sinlessness, and through his divine power as God’s son overcome death and break open the heavens.

The other reason for his baptism was to show us the way to salvation and to publicly hear from God that Jesus was God’s son, for we hear in our Gospel reading: -

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Jesus has been verified by God the Father, as his son and this is accompanied by the work of the Holy Spirit, as it was written in the prophet Isaiah 11:1-2:-

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”

We also hear in Isaiah 42:1-4:-

“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.”

God’s son comes to us with and by the power of the Holy Spirit, descending like a dove we hear in our Gospel reading. God’s coming among us is a

demonstration of his eternal love, a love that we is seen in the flesh of Jesus. This love needs to be embraced by us and Jesus shows us the way to do this, to be baptised. Once we are baptised and received God's Holy Spirit as we hear in our reading from Acts, we are to continue to ask our Heavenly Father to give us more of the Holy Spirit as it says in Luke 11:13, so that we can experience the Father's love and share this wonderful gift with others in word and deed.

There are other fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives and they are described in Galatians 5:-

"²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

During the months ahead, we are going to need these fruits like no other time in our lives. May we ask God to be filled with his Holy Spirit daily and received the great love that comes down from the Father in Heaven to give us his presence in these difficult times, **Amen**.

Profession of faith

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Amen

Hymn 3: Spirit of the living god fall afresh on me

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions: by Graham Martin read by Revd Brigid

INTERCESSIONS – Sunday 10th January 2021. Mark ch1 v4-13

Our Father in Heaven

We thank you Lord that you delight in meeting with your children, listening to our hopes and fears; and focussing our attention on the reality of Heaven when humanity is struggling and wars are still raging.

Hallowed be Thy Name

Jesus said, “All authority is given to me; therefore, go and make disciples”

Lord we know that your ways are better than our ways – your thoughts are higher than ours. Help us to give you authority in our lives, to honour your Name and hear your voice when we pray.

Thy Kingdom come

Jesus, we remember that you talked a lot about the Kingdom, and we want to be as passionate for that Kingdom as you are – the Kingdom now, in our everyday lives, and for everyone who owns your Name

Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven

As we look around the world and listen to the news we see how man’s greed and arrogance feeds war, injustice, oppression and brutality. The burden of our prayer is that your priorities will not only be manifest in your church but in the minds and hearts of those who govern.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Jesus said, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God”. Teach us how to pray, and teach us to listen to your voice – to learn from the Bible; and nourish our thinking and our passions with the things that please you most

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

As you have forgiven us so we choose to forgive those who have caused pain, anger and sorrow. And as we forgive may we know the blessing of your approval and the liberty of releasing offenders.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Lord, you know our weaknesses and where we are likely to fail. Grant us the assurance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to get our priorities right, so that we may be effective witnesses where faith is failing or lost.

We pray for all who are suffering ill-health, for all who are grieving, for all who struggle with loneliness and for all who feel they have failed. May they all know the comfort of your presence and your grace.

This is an opportunity to mention individuals by name who need healing.

We pray for:

Jeff Grimshaw
Phil Marshall
Lois Gardner
Ernest Norman
Molly Garwood
Mike Batt
Beryl Dixon
Jean Winn
Cally Thorpe
Josh Pitman
Georgia
Andy Smith
Sue Wilson

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer

We pray for all those we know and all those in in our parishes and who have COVID 19, that they may recover and be aware of your healing powers. We pray that all those we know keep safe in these worrying times.

We especially pray for those in hospital:

Pascal: Haley's father who is still on life support.

Tony King

Trevor Cole

and all the people from our parishes who have this virus.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer

We pray for **Ewa Huszak** and all in **Down Hall** who are unwell, and continue to pray for the staff, residents, and their family members of those in **Down Hall and The Swan Care Homes**. We also pray for those who are suffering and are known only to you.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer

We pray for those who have passed away, **Stephen Wills**, and his Mother **Rosemary Wills**, to be buried at Bradwell next week.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer

Dear Lord, finally we continue to pray for our schools in our, and all other areas. We pray for the Teaching Staff, Administration, Cleaning and Maintenance Staff and all the Pupils of St Nicholas School Tillingham, St Cedds School Bradwell, Ormiston Rivers, William de Ferrers School and Plume Academy. We pray that the you will support and strengthen them in their work and learning during this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy
All hear our prayer

Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hymn 4 Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.
Alleluia.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Open the heavens, Lord our God,
and send your transforming Spirit
on us and on these gifts.
May we who are baptized into Christ
be ready to share his cup of suffering
and strengthened to serve him for ever.
All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.
It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**
At the end of supper, taking 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 for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

Giving of Communion

The president and people receive communion.

Prayer after 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.

Acclamation

The Father's voice bears witness to the Son.

All God has revealed himself to us.

The Son bows his head beneath the waters of baptism.

All God has revealed himself to us.

The Spirit as a dove descends from heaven.

All God has revealed himself to us.

Submitting to John's baptism, Christ delivers us from bondage.

All God has revealed himself to us.

Blessing

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

We have come to Christ, the living water.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

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For the Zoom info and notices see next sheet:

Notices

Zoom Spiritual Communion

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Jan 10, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71995901580?pwd=OFZaRzVDakR4OEdLRyt0VUJQUmFqdz09>

Meeting ID: 719 9590 1580

Passcode: d9PVy8

Bible Study on Zoom

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 33 and 34

Time: Jan 13, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73744651105?pwd=bTBjTzhxekVEOVNNYzZYRHFD243QT09>

Meeting ID: 737 4465 1105

Passcode: UhG1k9

Epiphany to Candlemas – Resources for families

Groups and schools Our Barking Area Children's and Families Missioner, Emma Anderton has produced some resources for use by families, in groups or in schools between Epiphany and Candlemas. You can download the resources here -

[Epiphany to Candlemas \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)

For families supporting home learning, our A-Z of Westminster Abbey has 26 activities for primary children and their grown-ups to try together.

[A to Z activities | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](http://westminster-abbey.org)

Fr Paul O'Reilly SJ combined his experiences of both medical life & Ignatian spirituality to produce a short burst of prayer and reflection for our fantastic health care workers.

Click to access: [👉 http://ow.ly/66ve50D1qA0](http://ow.ly/66ve50D1qA0)

Retreats in Lockdown

As from January 5th 2021, England has entered another National Lockdown. This means that regrettably the Diocese Retreat House must remain shut until the Lockdown restrictions are lifted. Although we are shut to personal visitors, we are still providing spiritual food and sustenance by way of numerous online retreats in the coming months.

[Please visit our website for full details and to book.](#)



'See I am doing a New Thing!
Isaiah 43:19

A series of three morning sessions to explore how people have seen and found hope in these troubled times, and how this hope may resource ourselves and our communities. Come and share in the Good News stories from Church, NHS and parish communities, and see how we are being called to be part of a 'new thing'.

Each session will last for two hours, via Zoom, from 10 am to 12 noon, consisting of corporate worship, a talk and some time in breakout rooms to reflect and discuss in smaller groups. Each will be with a different set of guest speakers.

Dates:

Tuesday 9th February, Saturday 13th March and Tuesday 20th April.

Cost:

£10 per person per session

Book for just one or all three!

[Book now a see I am doing a new thing session](#)

Drink Deeply - Live Abundantly
back by popular demand!

Following our very successful series last Autumn, we bring you three new opportunities to drink deeply from the Christian spiritual tradition.

In all that we have journeyed through over the past 12 months and in the uncertainty of what still lies ahead, how can we be resourced in our faith journey this New Year? Even in Lockdown, the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition encourage us to drink deeply from the living water Christ offers and so live life abundantly in Christ!

Each session follows two figures or groups from the Christian spiritual tradition, giving opportunity for corporate prayer, being fed, and space for personal and shared reflection. Figures explored include Francis and Clare of Assisi, the Venerable Bede and St Ignatius of Loyola. Sessions (via Zoom) are from 10 am until 12 noon.

Guest speakers include Susan Sayers and Val Thompson.

Dates:

Tuesday 16th February, Tuesday 9th March and Tuesday 13th April.

Cost:

£10 per person per session

Book for just one or all three!

[Book now for Drink Deeply session](#)

Greening of the Soul

A Lent series on Hildegard Bingen

Lent is often described as the 'springtime of the soul', a time for growing in our relationship with God. Hildegard called this 'the greening of the soul' Hildegard lived in the region of the Rhine in 12th Century. She was a Benedictine Abbess, a writer and composer, a mystic and a philosopher. These three weekly oasis afternoons (from 2 pm - 4 pm via Zoom) offer an opportunity to ponder how God invites us to grow in faith and hope and love. When our souls are 'greened' then others will grow too, and our world transformed!

We will draw on the Scriptures and on Hildegard and other Christian Spiritual writers both from the past and from our contemporary context as we reflect and pray.

There will be an opportunity, for those who wish, to have a conversation with one of the team of spiritual directors.

Dates:

Wednesday 24th February, Wednesday 3rd March and Wednesday 10th March

Cost:

£10 per person per session

Book for just one but preferably all three!

[Book now a Greening the Soul session](#)

A place of peace and stillness where we can come into the presence of God
and rediscover the power of his love