



First Baptist Church

Worship Service for Sunday, January 7th, 2024

1st Sunday in Epiphany: The Baptism of Jesus

Welcome! Young children are welcome in the service or in our staffed nursery.

The collection is taken at the doorways as you enter the sanctuary.

**Please stand as you are able whether you are participating at home or in the sanctuary.*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: Lord, in your mercy, grant that we may both perceive and know what things we ought to do, and then have the grace and power to do those things faithfully. In your name we pray. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Xavier Russell-MacLean

Opportunities for Life and Service

Cheryl Johnston

Morning Chimes

*The Introit “We Are Singing” (Siyahamba)

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. (Repeat)

We are singing, we are singing, we are singing in the light of God. (Repeat)

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. (Repeat)

We are walking, we are walking, we are walking in the light of God. (Repeat)

Call to Worship and Prayer

Cheryl Johnston

Leader: Welcome in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Welcoming One Another

We Approach God

*Hymn of Praise

“We Come, O Christ, to You”

#117, v 1-4

The children are invited forward before going downstairs for their own time of worship.

**We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began.
In you alone we live and move and have our being in your love.**

**You are the way to God, your blood our ransom paid;
In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand; your love has met your law’s demand.**

**You are the living truth; all wisdom dwells in you,
The source of every skill, the one eternal True!
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.**

**You only are true life to know you is to live
The more abundant life that earth can never give.
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!**

Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

We Listen to God

Scripture Reader

Rosemary Ward

Epistle Lesson: Romans 12.1-5 (N.T. page 161)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 29

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

All: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

All: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.

All: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-11 (N.T. page 34)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Joel Russell-MacLean

We Celebrate

*Hymn of Approach “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

#167

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.**

**O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy:
For now the flow'rs of Nazareth in ev'ry heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.**

**O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.**

**O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay;
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away:
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heav'n adored, is mighty now to save.**

*Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful and loving God, we confess to you before all of heaven, and before one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us and restore us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is right and good, always and everywhere to give thanks to you Lord, Holy Father, Creator of heaven and earth... We praise you, joining the angels of heaven, all our sisters and brothers around the world, and the faithful departed ..., saying:

All: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is Jesus who came and will come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayers of the People

Chris Senger

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Consecration

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you came to set us free from sin, death and the devil. With love, we offer ourselves to you, fully and completely, as living sacrifices, as we proclaim the good news:

All: **Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

Our Gifts and Offerings

Minister: Come Holy Spirit, be with us as we take this bread and cup as genuine symbols of the body and blood of Jesus. Unite us to Jesus and bring us, in the end, with all the faithful, to resurrection and everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Communion

We Respond to God

*Hymn for Response

“Our Great Saviour”

#89 v. 1-3, 5

**Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Saviour, makes me whole.**

(Refrain)

**Hallelujah! what a Saviour! Hallelujah, what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.**

**Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins.**

(Refrain)

**Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul. *(Refrain)***

**Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. *(Refrain)***

We Depart to Serve God

*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Xavier Russell-MacLean

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited to the lower hall for refreshments following the service.

Parents:

Please go to meet your children in Godly Play and Nursery as they can only be dismissed into your care.



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