



St Oswald's Church: Worship and News Sheet

10th January 2021

Baptism of Christ



Introduction

Best wishes to you all at this worrying time of 'Lockdown'. It is difficult for us all, especially as it seems we are back to where it all started but now with rising infection rates. On the plus side we are aware that many have either received the vaccine or will shortly. We continue to hope for a swift end to the pandemic and to pray for our leaders and especially for those who are dealing with the sick.

We are obviously currently reviewing whether it is appropriate to continue with services in church having now received guidance from the Diocese. As you will know, churches are allowed to remain open for worship and private prayer and this Sunday, the services will go ahead as planned - 8.30am Early Worship and at 10.30am Holy Communion. We will let you all know if there is any change from what has been programmed beyond this Sunday. The message from the Diocese is that although we are permitted to be open, it is not necessarily the case that all churches must open (depending on local circumstances) and we will consider the guidance carefully this coming week. Equally, if we do remain open as before, please do not feel that you *ought* to come to church especially if you have any concerns over your own safety.

For those who would prefer to stay at home, we hope that you will find this sheet of help so that you can pray and worship there instead. We remain one Body of Christ.

Our Gospel reading today is about the baptism of Jesus at the start of his ministry. Recently we have celebrated that Jesus is 'Emmanuel' which means 'God with us'. In his baptism Jesus identifies with us in our state of fallen humanity – even though he himself was without sin. (See Hebrews 4: 14-16)

Call to worship and opening prayer

Isaiah 40.3-5

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

God called the light out of darkness and saw that it was good.
By his light we see what is true, what is lovely, what is beautiful.
In that light he created us, and called us to be his people.
His voice claims us as his own, his beloved sons and daughters.
He tears open the heavens to come with his Spirit and fill us with his life.
In that Spirit let us respond in prayer, in praise and in worship.
Amen.

Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkrepBvrLl4>

Readings for Sunday 10th January (Baptism of Christ)

Readings: Genesis 1: 1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19: 1-7
 Mark 1: 4-11

Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say 'Come unto me and rest'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUVCpF8-VuE>

Reflection

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/news/sunday-reflection-with-the-revd-dr-gavin-wakefield/>

Hymn: Holy Spirit, living breath of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nbMfLQd2P4>

Prayers (from rootsontheweb)

Holy wind of God, breathe on me.

Holy fire of God, burn in me.

Holy Spirit of God, rest on me.

Amen.

Eternal God, it feels as if the whole world has changed
and yet in you there is stability and the opportunity of a new beginning.
So, we pray now for those whose lives are in turmoil,
those whose lives have been turned upside down, those who feel lost.
May they feel supported, find fresh hope,
and use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.

We pray for those for whom the lockdown has come as a relief,
for those who now feel safer,
but we pray too for those who now feel desperate,
alone and worried about their jobs, their finances, their mental health.
May they feel supported, find fresh hope:
Lord, use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.

We pray for children and young adults as their schooling is disrupted,
we pray for those who enjoy learning from home,
but pray too for those who will lose confidence,
who miss their friends, who feel vulnerable.
We remember their parents
and the parents of children with special needs,
struggling to cope on their own.
We pray for teachers, administrative staff,
and all those who feel overwhelmed.
May they feel supported, find fresh hope:
Lord, use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.

We pray for the people of a divided America
at this time of political and racial tension and transition,

for outgoing President Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden.

We pray for countries around the world
struggling with ethnic violence and militancy.

We remember the people of West Africa
and in particular the people of Niger, villagers who live in fear,
those who have been wounded in recent attacks
and those who have been bereaved.

May they feel supported, find fresh hope:

Lord, use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.

We pray for those who have been injured
or lost their homes and loved ones in the severe weather,
remembering particularly the people of Norway affected by landslides,
and those in Australia battered by cyclones.

We pray for those who work in the emergency services,
those whose work is dangerous and traumatic.

We pray for those in refugees camps
with little protection from the weather,
those who sleep rough,
those who can't afford to heat their homes.

May they feel supported, find fresh hope:

Lord, use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.

We pray for one another, our families,
our communities, our church fellowships.

May we support those who are unwell or grieving.

May we bring fresh hope to those who feel forgotten and are vulnerable,
and may we – both practically and prayerfully – share our faith
in your Son Jesus in whose name we entrust these prayers to you.

Amen.

Collect

Heavenly Father,

at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:

may we recognize him as our Lord

and know ourselves to be your beloved children;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



Hymn: Crown him with many crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmZumMT47hU>

Sending out prayer

May the God of new beginnings
give us courage to face each new challenge,
joy in each new day,
and friends to journey with us through this new week.
Amen.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support for St Oswald's and the diocese.

Don't forget there is a new on-line giving page available at:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/fdc4c603-bdcf-4c89-94bc-c3507cdc8968>

Birthdays and Celebrations

A belated 'Happy Birthday' to Keith Carley for 8 January. God bless you and be your strength in the year ahead.

If you have a birthday or a special anniversary in January please let Helen Irving know (helen@helenirving.co.uk or 01845 524308)



Answers to the New Year Quiz!

1. What is a pangolin also known as?.. Scaly Anteater
2. Where is the Kuril Trench?.. In the Pacific Ocean
3. Who was Luke Skywalker's father?...Darth Vader
4. What part of the human body is the patella?...kneecap
5. Which British Prime minister returned from Munich in 1938 clutching a piece of paper?...Neville Chamberlain
6. A Roman mixture of vinegar, honey and salt was the first known example of what?...toothpaste
7. How high is a basketball hoop off the floor?... 10ft
8. Who was Othello's wife?... Desdemona
9. What does a phonophobe fear?....noise
10. Immortalised by the rhyme, the bridge of Avignon in France crosses over which river?...the Rhone
11. How long did the 'Hundred Years War' really last?...116 years
12. What is the square root of a quarter? ... a half

13. Where is the 'Marsh of Decay' ? ... On the moon
14. What is a cachalot? A sperm whale
15. In 1866, which two countries fought the Seven Weeks' War? ... Austria and Prussia
16. In boxing, which is heavier – featherweight or flyweight? ... feather-weight
17. The treacherous Goodwin Sands are situated off the coast of which English county? ... Kent
18. In which city is the Crucible Theatre, venue for World Snooker Championships? ... Sheffield
19. Which is the largest of the Canary Islands? ... Tenerife
20. What is Muckle Flugga?... the most northerly island in Britain