

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *Baptism of Jesus Sunday – January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Prelude:** by Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

- Information from Alzheimer's Society.
- Thank you Video from CFGB.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca) and [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca)

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

#### **Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** In God we have been graced with wisdom and knowledge, we are not lacking in any spiritual gift.

**People:** We are continually encouraged and strengthened, called as partners in Christ's mission of love and service to the world.

**Eric:** We gather in hope.

**People:** We worship with the Spirit at play in our hearts. Praise be to the God of goodness and light!

**Eric:** Come, let us worship.

#### **Opening Hymn: VU 415 "God, We Praise You..."**

- 1 God, we praise you for the morning;  
hope springs forth with each new day,  
new beginning, prayer, and promise,  
joy in work and in play.
- 2 God, we praise you for creation,  
mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing  
in your bountiful hand.
- 3 God, we praise you for compassion,  
all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter,  
help your children to grow.
- 4 God, we praise you for your Spirit,  
Comforter and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher,  
strength and courage you send.

- 5 God, we praise you for the Saviour,  
come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising,  
Christ is Lord of our days.
- 6 Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Christ is Lord of our days!

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People: You who gives all, holding back nothing for the sake of fuller, wider expressions of love, move us this day to take similar risks. Grace us with renewed confidence, and inspire us with an inviting, touchable vision for life, work, and service in your name.**

### **Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:**

#### **Children's Hymn: VU 341 "Fairest Lord Jesus"**

- 1 Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down:  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,  
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the troubled heart to sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and fair the twinkling, starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.
- 4 All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;  
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer  
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

### **Scripture: Matthew 3: 13 - 17 "Jesus' Baptism"**

**Sometimes people ask me, "What's it like to have Jesus as a relative?" My mother loved to tell me the story of when her relative Mary came to visit us when she was pregnant with Jesus; it was at the same time my mother was pregnant with me. When Mary arrived, my mother said she could feel me leaping for joy inside her. Even before I was born, we had a special bond. Even though we didn't always understand what it would mean, we knew that Jesus would grow up to be an example of how God desires that we live, full of love and peace.**

**I will never forget the day that Jesus came and asked me to baptize him. I would never have expected it! And it changed me. The way of living that Jesus teaches is very important to my entire family.**

**Before Jesus began his ministry, I wanted to do everything I could to help prepare the way for his message to be heard, so I went into the wilderness to share the good news that God loves everyone. I baptized people, initiating them into this way of living and inviting them into a new way of seeing.**

**Part of my baptism was like a symbol – like washing away the bad things from our past so that we could start afresh with God. When Jesus came to me and asked me to baptize him, I was so surprised. Jesus is the very example of how we are to live. I thought, “It should be Jesus baptizing me.” But even when I hesitated, Jesus insisted that I baptize him. It was a humbling moment.**

**As Jesus came up out of the water, it seemed as if the heavens were opened; I could feel the Spirit of God very close – like a dove descending on Jesus. Deep down and all around, it seemed words from God were swirling around, too, “This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am very pleased.”**

**I got to serve Jesus, the one who has committed his life to bringing justice. I realized that when Jesus asked me to baptize him, he couldn’t bring about righteousness on his own. This is something that is best done with the help of others. It was an “aha” moment for me. I wasn’t merely just preparing the way, I have an important part of bringing justice and righteousness to our land.**

### **Message: “Baptized with Jesus”**

Today we hear the story of how Jesus begins his public life as a teacher, preacher, and healer by requesting baptism from John. What made the baptism of Jesus so important?

John calls everyone – including Jesus – to “repent”. Rather than meaning regret or confession, “repent” means “to go beyond the mind”. This was Jesus’ central message: the Kingdom of Heaven means reaching beyond black-and-white dualities, into the larger heart and mind of God.”

Rather than “Change your bad ways!” we now hear, “Look! Look! God is inviting you to a new way of seeing! Come into the larger mind, see how God sees!” To “go beyond the mind” is no easy task, but the baptism of Jesus offers us some clues to how we might take steps to “repent.”

Through the universal symbol of water, Jesus models his invitation for all to move from unconsciousness to consciousness – a deeper awareness of just how deeply loved we are by a good and gracious God. That is why “going beyond the mind” is no easy task, as we reach beyond our life experiences and reach into the heart and mind of God.

This story helps us to identify Jesus and his calling, as well as our identity and calling. Jesus emerges from the waters of baptism and hears the truth of his identity: Jesus is the beloved, Child of God. The same can be said of each one of us. While Baptism might mark a beginning in the Christian journey, we are called beloved children of God. Isaiah reminds us that this is not a passive identity but an active calling to God's work of justice in the world. How are we living out the truth of our identity and calling as God's beloved?

Change is hard for humans. John the baptizer resisted change. Yet very quickly, Jesus called John to release his old way of thinking. Jesus approaches John to request a baptism of Living Water, the highest order of Baptism, in order to "fulfill all righteousness." John knows who Jesus is and thinks that Jesus should be baptizing John, but Jesus says to John, "You are to baptize me, this is what God wants". Does God want each and every one of us to be baptized? Does your answer change your thinking of baptisms?

Do you find change hard to accept?

Jesus' baptism is a public act. Jesus' baptism comes with a heavenly proclamation and the visible presence of the Holy Spirit – in the form of a dove. In our Christian tradition, baptism is linked with beginnings, new life, entrance into a Christian community or the family of God. It is a profession of faith or a promise to teach and guide the newly baptized into faith. It is God's grace which makes us "clean" and forgives our sins. It is by God's grace we receive the Holy Spirit.

In the whoosh of a dove's wings and a Spirit-filled voice, we perceive the vision of God's unfolding purpose in the life of Jesus. Do we also sense God's spirit resting on us, as individuals and as a church?

On this day, we focus on the message that God speaks to Jesus during the baptism: "You are my Beloved." This message is one that God speaks to each of us. With a love that is so freely given, the hardest part may be for us to learn how to accept it!

Today we are called to remember our own baptisms, which includes that we are God's beloved. Again the hardest part may be for us to learn how to accept it!

Last week, we shared about us reaching out in faith to help others to care, protect, and love each other as Jesus loves us. Jesus' dream for a better world is reliant on all of his followers. We are all needed to help, care, protect, and love

what God birthed in Jesus. We too, like Jesus are God's beloved. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 99 “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”**

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,  
God's Spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove and yet  
as urgent as a flame.
- 2 God called you, 'My beloved Son,'  
called you, 'My servant true,'  
sent you God's kingdom to proclaim,  
God's holy will to do.
- 3 Straightway and steadfast until death  
you then obeyed the call  
freely as Son of Man to serve  
and give your life for all.
- 4 Baptize us with your Spirit now,  
your cross on us be signed,  
that likewise in God's service we  
may perfect freedom find.

**Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** We see God in the ordinary places of our lives – sometimes without realizing it. We see God with us; when we hold a hand, offer a smile, feed a stranger. Let us give to God as an act of worship and gratitude.

**Offertory: VU 541 “Praise God From Whom...”**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Offertory Prayer:**

**People:** All that we are, O God, and all we are called to be, we bring to this special moment of offering and hope. May our gifts be used imaginatively for the well-being of all, in Jesus' name.

**Prayer Hymn: VU 378 “Spirit of God, ...”**

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;

stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,  
and make me love you as I ought to love.

**Pastoral Prayer:**

**Closing Hymn: VU 453 “Out of Deep, Unordered Water”**

- 1 Out of deep, unordered water  
God created land and life;  
world of bird and beast, and later,  
twosome people, husband, wife.  
    There is water in the river  
    bringing life to tree and plant.  
    Let creation praise its giver:  
    there is water in the font.
- 2 Water on the human forehead,  
birthmark of the love of God,  
is the sign of death and rising;  
through the sea there runs a road. R
- 3 Standing round the font reminds us  
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.  
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:  
God has been this way before. R

**Benediction:**

**Eric:** Go now, God's beloved! Be surprised by the wonder and love of God, now and for ever more.

**Sending Out Hymn: VU 378 “Spirit of God, ...”**

Teach me to love you as your angels love,  
one holy passion filling all my frame,  
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,  
my heart an altar and your love the flame.

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude:** – Christie Coatsworth

**Prayers:** - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service.  
It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as “In the Spirit We Are One”.

**Cancer:**

**Chris  
Paul**

**Sarah  
Carol  
Maureen**

Susan  
Cara

Reg and Mary Jane  
Dave  
Bill  
Jane  
Donna  
Martin and Family  
Larry  
Kerigan  
Fran  
John  
Ken  
Grace  
Mel  
Natalie  
Susan  
Joan

Ingrid  
Johnathan

Dona  
Tracy and Jerome  
Richard and Evelyn  
Elaine  
Wayne  
Marcus  
Ed Sykes  
John T. family  
Margaret  
Connie  
Shelley  
Gail  
Evelyn  
Jim and Marilyn  
Gary and Betty