

eyes may be opened and they may work for an end to oppression and injustice, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for the grieving and those who provide comfort, for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially...*), that Christ our great physician will soothe and console all in need, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For our local community and for this congregation, that in all our joys and sorrows we remember that we are God's beloved children... and that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our own baptismal vocations, that we may follow the example of their lives and be reunited with them in the joy of everlasting life, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, you know our thoughts and needs better than we ourselves. Hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent... and strengthen us to do your will, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior... who taught us to pray:
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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter **✠** keep you in peace. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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Baptism of our Lord // 1st Sun. after Epiphany

January 10, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **✠** one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of **✠** Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5 –

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said,

“Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Acts 19:1-7 –

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior 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.

Mark 1:4-11[12-13] –

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.”

[¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.]

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cheryl Warming

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; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE PRAYERS

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people according to their need.

A brief silence.

For the Christian church and the ministry of all the baptized... that we stand firm in the one faith to which we have been called... that your Holy Spirit will teach us to live in love, to forgive sins, to bring an end to violence and hatred, and to work for peace and reconciliation throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth... that God’s goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for our nation and its leaders, and for peacemakers amid strife... that all who are wounded by the trauma of war and violence, oppression and injustice may see your light shining in the darkness... that God inspire all people to use their power and position wisely so that conflicts may cease and peace may reign in this new year, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all Christians who have been baptized into the one family of faith, that our lives may reflect the forgiveness, love and acceptance that were first shown us... that in our common life together we may seek to please God in both word and deed, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who seem blind to the injustices of our world, to the evil at work in and among us through propaganda / intentional untruths, to the way Christianity is being used as platform for hate and violence... that their