



What would you draw/write here? 1

08B EPIPHANY 02B - ONLINE LITURGY

The whole world changed

Abstract

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.

Genesis 1:3-5

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Genesis 1:1–5 (NIV)

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.

Mark 1:4–11 (NIV)

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 baptized by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around 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 baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized 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.”

Response

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

08B Epiphany 02B - Online liturgy

The whole world changed

Sunday, January 10, 2021 | Epiphany | Baptism of the Lord | First Sunday After the Epiphany | Year B

Old Testament Genesis 1:1–5
Psalm Psalm 29
New Testament Acts 19:1–7
Gospel Mark 1:4–11ⁱⁱ

This passage is the first appearance of Jesus as an adult and comes at the beginning of his ministry. His baptism is a new beginning and a transformation. John the baptizer says that he is not worthy to untie Jesus' shoes. He recognises that Jesus will be able to do much greater things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This reading is given alongside the account of the beginning of everything from the opening chapter of Genesis, and a story about the Holy Spirit and new beginnings from Acts. Our new beginnings come through the forgiveness God offers, which is not just the once in a lifetime event of our baptism, but all the forward-looking opportunities that God offers us each and every day.

This week we explore: the opportunity for a new beginning that comes with Jesus.ⁱⁱⁱ

	Pre-Service
Main Verse 1,	Introit TIS #152 – “Joyful, joyful, we adore you” v1
	Greeting May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all and also with you
	We Gather This the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. We are the family of God. And are called by God's name. We are heirs of Christ's kingdom. And born of the Spirit. Let us, therefore, come together in thanksgiving. Acknowledgment and paying our respects

	<p>This church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Lord God, giver of light and life, by your word you bring everything into being – the far-flung galaxies and the tiniest atomic particle.</p> <p>You have given us a world to enjoy and to care for.</p> <p>Give us compassion in the use of its resources, wisdom in our stewardship of your gifts, and reverence for all that you have made –</p> <p>for Jesus' sake. Amen.</p>
Main Verse 1, Chorus 1, Verse 2, Chorus 1, Verse 4, Chorus 1, Verse 5, Chorus 1,	<p>Hymn/song TIS #137 – “For the beauty of the earth” V1,2,4,5</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p>“Webster the preacher duck”^{iv}</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Come, let us honour the powerful glory of our Creator God. Let us worship God’s majesty in the splendour of holiness. Amen.</p>
	<p>Readings Genesis 1:1–5 (NIV) Mark 1:4–11 (NIV)</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord</p> <p>Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video Holy Spirit, living Breath of God – Keith Getty Video</p> <p>Holy Spirit, Living Breath Of God/Gabriel's Oboe (Live) – Keith & Kristyn Getty © 2013 Getty Music Label, LLC</p> <p>Released on: 2013-01-01 Producer: Ed Cash Composer – Lyricist: Keith Getty</p>

	<p>Composer – Lyricist: Stuart Townend Composer – Lyricist: Ennio Morricone</p> <p>CCLI Song # 4779872 Keith Getty Stuart Townend</p> <p>© 2006 Thankyou Music (Admin. by SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia) CCLI Licence # 389309</p>
	<p>We say Sorry Lord, when you came into the world, things changed. When we came into a relationship with you, things changed. Life became filled with a new sense of purpose and peace. But, Lord, sometimes we let you down by doing wrong things or failing to do right things.</p> <p>We are sorry, Lord.</p> <p>Sometimes, Lord, through pride, stubbornness or fear we build barriers and keep others at arm’s length – even you, Lord.</p> <p>We are sorry, Lord. At times we give in to our weaknesses and temptations, failing to draw on your strength. At times we are troubled by difficult situations and find it hard to trust you.</p> <p>We are sorry, Lord.</p> <p>Help us to turn such things around and turn to you. Help us to learn from the past and, drawing on your strength and peace, make a better future.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Words of Assurance Lord, when Jesus was baptized, you spoke of your love for him. You showed your love for us through Jesus’ death and resurrection. By the power of the cross, the darkness of our wrongdoing is banished by the light of your loving forgiveness.</p> <p>Thanks be to God. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/Song or Choir</p> <p>TIS #675 - “Lord, the Light of your Love is shining” - Graham Kendrick,</p>

To Whom Do You Belong?
Mark 1:4-11

Let's start with a story

A young schoolboy was used to his father picking him up after school every day.
Every day he would sit on the steps outside the school
and every day within a few minutes his father would come to pick him up.

This particular day, as school ended

the young boy walked out the front door and scanned the street for his dad.
Not seeing him he sat down on the steps waiting.
But something had happened, and dad was running late.
the minutes rolled by, and an hour later the boy was still sitting there.
all the other kids had gone home.

Eventually, a teacher, ready to leave for the day was walking past.

She asked him if he was a student at the school.
"Yes" he replies, "I come here every day"

The teacher sat down next to him to keep him company.

The teacher enquired, "Who's little boy are you?
Who do you belong to? And why are you sitting here all alone?"

The responded with a smile of the certainty of a young child,

"My dad's coming to pick me up."
"Is he late?" the teacher responded.
"I don't know," the youngster replied. "I don't know what time it is."

Just then a car pulls up with the urgent screech of brakes.

The child's father leaps out and ran up to the boy.
"I am so sorry," he says, scooping the young fellow up into his arms.
"I completely forgot to come to get you today."

After assuring herself that this was indeed the man the boy was waiting for
and relieved her problem had solved itself, she left
and the father and the young lad drove off.

As they drove, the boy's father asked, "Were you worried when I didn't come right away?"

"Oh no," the youngster replied.
"You said you would come. I knew you would. And now, here you are."

There was an honesty and certainty in the child's voice
that we recognise as the youthful trust of the young.

As they drove, the child turned to his father and added,
"That nice lady asked me, 'Who do you belong to?'
Didn't she know I belong to you?"

There is a lot wrong with that story, but also something that is right.
It illustrates one clear truth.

When we know to whom we belong,
and we trust implicitly that it is indeed true,
it makes all the difference in our world.

The reading is about Jesus' baptism and it says several things.
 But, underlying the story,
 as told by the writer of the earliest gospel, Mark,
 is a theme of belonging.

At the outset of his ministry,
 Jesus needed to know what we need to know:
 To whom do you belong?
 It really does matter to us.

When we know whose we are, we can discern who we are.
 This is the meaning of Christian baptism.
 It is a practice older than the Jordan River ministry of John the Baptist.
 Over the centuries it has had a sometimes-tortured history.
 Christians have fought over the how, what and when of its administration
 and whether or not it should be considered a sacrament of the church.
 Some believers have even considered ways to celebrate it without actually using water.

One thing is constant, however.
 To be baptized in the Christian community
 means to open ourselves to the claim and the promise of a gracious God.
 It is to say, "I know to whom I belong.
 I want that claim on me to shape who I am and who I become."
 When we baptize an infant,
 we say the same thing, on behalf of the small child.
 We are saying, "We want for this child the benefits and the promise
 that God has already made for him or her."
 And so we pour the water that in sacred rite of initiation.

Today's reading does raise a question for us.
 was it necessary or why Jesus submitted was Baptised by John.
 By the end of the first century,
 when the gospel of John, the last one written, had begun to circulate,
 there was among believers
 the suspicion or the outright belief that Jesus was in fact divine.
 John 1:1 actually states
 "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus),
 and the Word was with God,
 and the Word was God."

John begins by quoting the opening words of Genesis in Greek (Gen 1:1).
 He uses Genesis 1:1–5 to establish the "Word"
 as a pre-existent agent of creation present with Yahweh from the beginning.
 John uses the term "Word" as a title for Jesus ^{vi}

If this is what we believe, why did baptism make sense in Jesus' case?

Today, Mark declares that Jesus was to be God's special person
 at the moment of his baptism.
 It is Mark's way of telling his readers and hearers,

“Now you know who Jesus belongs to.”

It is the same with us.

When we were baptized

or, when we will be if this is something you are considering in your life

we are declaring or having declared that for us,

“Now we know, for certain and for all time,

who we are and who we belong to.”

Once we are sure about that,

we can live and love and serve and celebrate and die

safe in the arms of a loving God.

That young boy,

sitting on the front steps of the school,

waited without doubt or fear

for the arrival of one who cared for him and who would not abandon him.

He was able to do that because he knew who he was;

and he knew that because he knew with utter certainty who he belonged to.

As believers loved and embraced by a gracious God, we can know that too.

Rejoice and be glad!

Amen

	Response
	Hymn/song TIS #256 – “From heaven you came helpless babe” (Servant song)
	Offering OFFERTORY SENTENCE We love because God first loves us. We serve because God first gifts us. Let us bring our gifts of love and service to God. OFFERTORY PRAYER Generous God, we love, because you first love us. We bring the fullness of our lives and our gifts in response to your love. Use them and us, that love may abound and deepen, in us, in our community and in our world. Amen. ^{vii}
	Notices
	Prayers for all people
	Lord’s Prayer Lord’s Prayer Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

	<p>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 ^{viii}</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #246 (AHB #191) - "Christ is the world's light"</p>
	<p>We are sent out Lord, help us to be open to your prompting as we seek to discover what you would have us be and do. Remind us again and again that you have promised to be our guide and companion on our journey. Help us to look forward with renewed commitment, and bless our thinking and speaking and doing. In your name. Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace</p>
	<p>Benediction TIS #778 – “Shalom”</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>

Elements of this service are drawn, and adapted from diverse sources, named if possible and known.

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ⁱⁱ Revised Common Lectionary. (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

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Webster the Preacher Duck is a retelling of Søren Kierkegaard's 'The Domestic Goose: a moral tale' "They were to use their wings to fly away to distant pastures to which they really belonged."

^v The New International Version. (2011). (Jn 1:1). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

- ^{vi} Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Jn 1:1). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- ^{vii} Words for Worship © MediaCom Education 2021
- ^{viii} English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988