



# Newsletter and Notices

# Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 The Baptism of Christ



## 8am Holy Communion, in Church

## 10am Service of the Word for the New Year, in Church & via [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

**1. Come to Church** All are welcome! Remember to bring your order of service.

### 2. Join with Zoom on your computer

When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting'.

(Meeting ID **846 662 9590**, Password **834900**).

### 3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone

a) Call **0131 460 1196**

b) Enter Meeting ID: **846 662 9590** followed by #

c) You may be asked to enter Participant ID: press #

d) Enter Meeting Password: **834900** followed by #

*You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service).*

Whether or not you might like to do this, let's be aware of the prayerful communion in God's Spirit that we all share, wherever we are, whether or not we are able to talk, video-call or communicate with one another.

## A Psalm for The Baptism of Christ, Psalm 29

### **Refrain: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. **[R]**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **[R]**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **[R]**

Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ,

to hear the music of your voice above the chaos of this world;

open our eyes to see the vision of your glory,

for you are our King, now and for ever. Amen.

## Collect for The Baptism of Christ

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Gospel for The Baptism of Christ, Mark 1. 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

## An anthem for today

Last year on this day our Choir sang 'Tomorrow shall be my dancing Day' (arr. Gardner). You might like to listen to [this version](#) by the Choir of Kings College Cambridge.

*'...Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance...'*

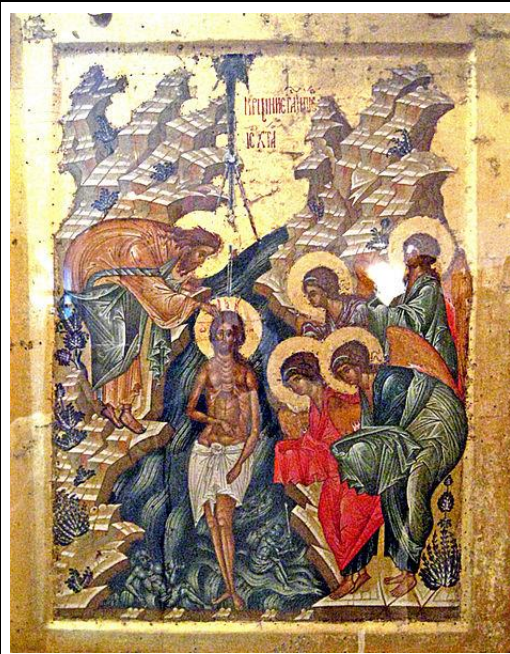
*Words Traditional English Carol*

## In these times when it's not feasible for the Junior Church to meet we've created a few children's resources for families to share together on Sundays –

- There's a [printable sheet on our website](#) which offers a prayer and activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on today's Gospel reading from Mark.

- You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'Baptism of Jesus', also from today's Gospel. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to talk about together. Find the video on YouTube [here](#).

Do have a look and explore the links on our [Children and Young People](#) page: there are lots of fun things including craft activity templates, quizzes and a video made by our Youth Group.



Icon of Baptism of Christ Icon, 1497,  
Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery

**We hope to re-establish sessions for private prayer in the church. It depends on having stewards willing to supervise, in the current circumstances (see below). Please look out for an announcement on the website and in our regular communications.**

**If you'd like the Prayer Chain to pray for some concern which is on your heart,** please make your prayer request to the coordinator: [diane.pettitt@hotmail.com](mailto:diane.pettitt@hotmail.com) / 461845. Requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked and a request won't lead to further contact or action. If a request to the Prayer Chain would help, don't hesitate to make it.

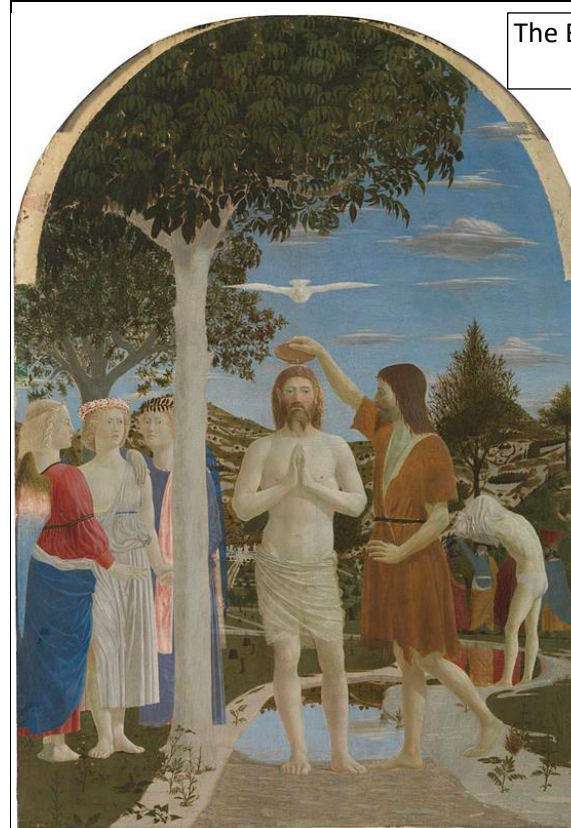
**Thank you so much** to all those volunteers who, since June, have ensured that our Church could be open by stewarding in pairs to welcome visitors for private prayer and reflection. We have received so many

appreciative comments. We'd love to continue to offer this mission/outreach until we return to some sense of normality, and would value any more helpers. If you would be happy to come out in the current circumstances and think that you'd like this opportunity to serve, please contact the Office!

**Foodbank Appeal** – This winter, the Foodbank is expecting a rise in demand. Please see [our website](#) for items requested.

**Charities Support Group Christmas Quiz** – Thanks to Lynn Graseman for putting together such a varied Christmas quiz of choral, popular music and films. It was clear from feedback that many enjoyed the challenge and there were high-quality entries. The winner was Maggie Jarman (and family) with a brilliant 68/72. The total of advent donations and quiz entry fees was £540. Thanks to all who donated/entered the quiz.

**1st Bishop's Stortford Boy's Brigade are open for new members to join** – They hold weekly Zoom meetings, 7-7:30pm on Mondays in term time, and hope to restore normal meetings when restrictions are lifted. Boys' Brigade is the oldest national voluntary organisation for boys, aged 5-16. For more information contact [krizzcollins@yahoo.com](mailto:krizzcollins@yahoo.com)



The Baptism of Christ, Piero della Francesca,  
National Gallery

**Prayers for our Community via Zoom, 9:30am, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – A half hour session of informal prayer. This week it's via Zoom: Meeting ID 458 034 0358, Password 435609. All welcome.

**Bridge Youth Worship, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 5:30pm** – If you'd like to join in via Zoom, please contact Al Evans at - [bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com)

**Holy Communion, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 10am** – In church and via Derwyn's Zoom. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (Meeting ID 846 662 9590, Password 834900).

**Bridge Youth Alpha via Zoom, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 7:30-9pm** –

A new fortnightly Youth Alpha series. If the last year has been a struggle for you with your faith, or if you'd just like to reconnect with Jesus, do try this course. Contact Al Evans at [bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeyouthchurch@gmail.com)

**Zoom prayer with June on Mondays** – A support chat and prayer room each week. If you're interested in joining, do call her for more details (771756).

More details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website. Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

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