



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### The Baptism of Christ

#### Welcome

Leader This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ  
in the waters of baptism.

*Responses from Ezekiel 36*

All I will take you from the nations,  
**and gather you from all the countries.**

Leader I will sprinkle clean water upon you,  
All **and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.**

Leader A new heart I will give you,  
All **and put a new spirit within you.**

Leader You shall be my people,  
All **and I will be your God.**

#### Hymn 204 Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in His path to birth:  
before Him, on the mountains,  
shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all people sing;  
to Him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.



O'er every foe victorious,  
He on His throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never

His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever,  
His changeless name of Love.

Words by James Montgomery  
Music adapted by by William Henry Monk  
Music from a chorale by by Johann Crüger

## Opening activity

### Confession

Leader Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
and against one another,  
in thought, and word, and deed.  
We are truly sorry for our pride,  
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love.  
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,  
of our bitterness and our prejudices.  
Pardon and forgive us, save us and renew us,  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Absolution (*we are reminded that God forgives all who repent*)

*This or another absolution may be said*

Leader May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins,  
and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

Leader Let us pray that we may be faithful to our baptism.

*Silence is kept.*

### Collect (*Prayer for the day*)

Leader Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Introduction from Steve Green

*Ordinand on placement with the parish until Easter*



## Hymn    **Our God is a great big God**

*Our God is a great big God  
Our God is a great big God  
Our God is a great big God  
And He holds us in His hands*

He's higher than a skyscraper  
He's deeper than a submarine

He's wider than the universe  
And beyond my wildest dreams  
He's known me and He's loved me  
Since before the world began  
How wonderful to be a part of  
God's amazing plan

## Bible readings

### *Mark 1:4-11 – Steve Green*

<sup>4</sup>And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

### *Acts 19:1-7 – Moira Lemprière, St Mark's*

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup>and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup>So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

<sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup>There were about twelve men in all.

## Sermon – Sam     **Baptism in/of the Holy Spirit ~ Spirit filled life**

I want to say from the outset, that if in this moment in time you find yourself, because of the situation we have been in in the last year, and now find ourselves in again this year in regards to Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions, feeling rather ‘spiritually malnourished’; that is, feeling dry and ineffective, feeling defeated, and maybe you are in a place where you want or are yearning for the spirit to fill your lips and lives with a new lease of life, this message is especially for you.

Last week, Jonathan talked about the abundance of riches God has mercifully given us as His children, riches that we are either not putting to good use, or worse still completely unaware we even have them. And one of these riches is the ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit (hereafter BIS), which is one of the most thrilling aspects of the Spirit’s work in our lives. The phrase ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit’ is found a number of times in the New Testament only, and two of those times are in today’s Bible readings. In the Mark reading, we find John the Baptist proclaiming that He who he prepares the way for, is the one who ‘Baptises with the Holy Spirit’ (v8)... and in the second reading, we find the Apostle Paul almost sounding shocked that the disciples he had come across had not received the ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit.’ These disciples believed in Jesus as the messiah but they hadn’t really understood the significance of His death and resurrection or the work of the Holy Spirit. And it’s fair to say, they were incomplete as Christians. Which is why Paul lays hand on them in prayer and they receive the BIS.

And I think just like the disciples Paul came across, many of us, Christians, believers, have tragically failed to understand, expect, believe, and experience all that the relationship with God in Christ has afforded us. And I hope this message goes a long way in helping us understand this gift of the BIS, and to seek to live a spirit filled life in this season when many will feel spiritually empty.

The first and probably the most important thing to say is that, every Christian, every believer has the gift of the BIS. 1 Corinthians 12.13 says “*The BIS is available for all who repent and believe and are baptised into Christ*” (paraphrased). Paul plainly puts it that All have received this Baptism without exception. All who confess that Jesus is Lord, have received it. It’s not the special privilege of the few, it’s the birth right of all believers. There is a lot of debate in the theological world on when or how one receives the BIS or what evidences (outwardly) they have to show if they have it, and so on and so forth. But personally, I believe this does not matter and has unfortunately led to a lot of confusion in this area. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is received by simple faith in Christ, which then

positions us in Christ, cementing ALL believers securely into the Family of God. Charles Stanley, one of the few American preachers I listen to says this of BIS, “If you have trusted Christ as your saviour, you have the Baptism of the Spirit. Not only that, you have been indwelt, filled, and therefore have everything you need to experience the wonderful spirit life.”

The second thing to note then is, what is Baptism in/of the Holy Spirit? James Dunn in his book ‘Baptism in the Spirit,’ describes it as “the gift of saving grace by which one enters into Christian experience and life – into the new covenant, into the Church.” He goes on to say, “It is, in that last analysis, that which makes a man and a woman a Christian. Simply put, it’s that which joins the believer to the Church (The Body of Christ) and equipping him or her for life and ministry.

When we have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, and therefore Baptised in the Spirit, we are therefore given a new identity in Christ, a new relationship with God, power and gifting for ministry are readily released. BIS in scripture is often accompanied with words like, the spirits promising, clothing, empowering, pouring, receiving, filling, gifting... and so on.

## Fire Place



To help us understand this further, I want to use the analogy of a fire place. And I want us to think more about an indoor fire place, which if fortunate to have, like we do in our household, has been put to good use this very cold winter.

We all light our fire places differently, the important thing is that they light ~ which is true for the Baptism of the Spirit, for some it may come suddenly like a violent wind, for others it’s gradual, it can also manifest its self with a sense of love, or peace, or power, or joy ~ or it may come with deep sense of assurance. Simon Ponsonby says, “What matters is not so much the exact what, or the when, but the whether.” He goes on to say, “We are all uniquely made and the spirit always fits himself to us, who we are, where we are, how we are – but he never leaves us as we are.”

To keep the fire crackling in the fire place, one has got to constantly throw in more wood to keep it going. similar analogy with BIS, we have established that we now have it burning in us, but to sustain, strengthen and keep the fire of the BIS burning brightly in us, we have got to keep throwing in Prayer, bible study, fellowship, laying on of hands (when it’s allowed again), spiritual disciplines, fasting, giving, the sacraments, service... and so on, if we are to live a spirit filled life.

And when a fire is burning brightly, all those close to it are able to feel its warmth ~ when the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is stirred up in us, it's not just for our own spiritual lives, but it's also for the service of others (ministry).

## **Conclusion**

Preparing this message, I was really encouraged and my spirit lifted with the somewhat new knowledge I gained on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and I hope this message has the same impact on you as you read this. If like me you are seeking for a closer sense of God's presence in your life, a deeper love for Him, a spirit filled life that is revitalised, ushering in a new lease of life, bringing maybe never before known gifts, then the challenge for us going forward is seeking, praying and pursuing God for more of the Spirit.

It's very easy as a Christian to settle, to be comfortable, but my encouragement is let us not do that, let us press on into Christ daily, constantly that we might be a people of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, living to the fullest, a wonderful spirit filled life.

Please pray this prayer with me and take at least two minutes in silence after waiting on the filling/refilling of the spirit

Dear Lord, thank you for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I pray that you will create a hunger, a thirst in for more of your Spirit... come Holy Spirit, fill me anew and help me live a life that's worthy of your praise and for your Glory. Amen

## **Hymn For I'm building a people of power**

For I'm building a people of power  
and I'm making a people of praise,  
that will move through this land by My Spirit,  
and will glorify My precious name.  
Build Your Church, Lord,  
make us strong, Lord,  
join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son;  
make us one, Lord, in Your body,  
in the kingdom of Your Son.

Words and music by Dave Richards  
Music arranged by Roger Mayor

**Creed** *(We stand to declare our faith)*

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from**

**Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### Prayers ~ *Clive Boyle, All Souls'*

Everlasting God, we give thanks for this new day and as we gather virtually this morning to mark the Baptism of Christ, let us remember our own baptisms and our calling to be Christians. May we be filled with such joy as we believe in you that our hearts overflow with love for you and for all who we meet along our journey. May we walk in your way, live our life for you and be mindful of your presence day by day. **Amen**



### *A prayer for forgiveness*

Lord Jesus, you were called the friend of sinners, be my friend, for I acknowledge that I have sinned. Forgive the wrong that I have done and the right that I have failed to do; my secret and my more open sins; my sins of ignorance and my deliberate sins; sins to please myself and sins to please others; the sins which I remember, and the sins which I have forgotten; forgive all these, for it was for me also that you died. My Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

### *A prayer for friends and family*

Father God, we pray today for our friends, our families and our Christian community, that united by our common baptism we may always welcome the newcomer, the stranger and all who are vulnerable. We pray for all

who are working to help others; for those who learn and those who teach them in these challenging times. We pray for all who struggle to fill their daily needs and fear for their future. We pray for all who feel alone or isolated. We pray for ourselves, right here and now, all we are and think and feel. Father we place our world into your hands, in all things and all places may your will be done. **Amen**

*A prayer for the world and its leaders*

Lord God, at the start of 2021 we pray for your world. Let the star of your justice always shine in the hearts of those who are in authority. Enable all nations to recognize the sanctity of each and every human life in their care so that all may experience an abundance of peace and security. We pray for this, our own country, with its cultural and ethnic diversity, for Queen Elizabeth, her ministers and all in authority, that they will govern wisely and with due regard for the needs of all people. We pray for all our people facing this New Year without some of the basics of life that we take so much for granted. We think of the homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker, the addict, the ex-prisoner. Lord Jesus who became a refugee from the oppression of Herod be with all those who find themselves marginalised from our affluent society. Support all who work through state and voluntary agencies to relieve their hardship and restore dignity. **Amen**

We pray for the sick, bereaved and troubled. Especially for Eileen and Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, Alison Cole, Enid Hardman, John Hunter, Lynda Kirk, Patricia and Pete Lawther, Catherine Mc Cormack, Olive Park, Malcolm Pritchard, Joy Storkey, and Barbara Thirst. We give thanks and pray for all who care for the sick and needy, thinking especially of those in Royal Surrey County Hospital as they are offering mutual aid to South East Hospitals.

Heavenly Father, we commend to your love and care those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit and especially those known to us: friends, family, members of this church and the wider Parish.

Please bring them your peace in their pain, your strength in their weakness and your comfort in their sadness.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*A prayer for the church*

Enable this church to do your will

Make it vulnerable that it may speak with calm humility;

Make it outward looking that it may care deeply

Make it a community of peacemakers and bridge builders

In the midst of turbulence let the church make space

for the hearing of your still small voice. **Amen**



## The Lord's prayer

Leader Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
As our Saviour has taught us so we pray.

All **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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Notices

### Hymn O God of burning cleansing flame

O God of burning, cleansing flame,  
send the fire!

Your blood-bought gift today we  
claim: send the fire today!

Look down and see this waiting  
host,  
and send the promised Holy Ghost;  
we need another Pentecost!

Send the fire today,  
send the fire today!

God of Elijah, hear our cry:  
send the fire!

And make us fit to live or die:  
send the fire today!

To burn up every trace of sin,  
to bring the light and glory in,  
the revolution now begin!

Send the fire today,  
send the fire today!

It's fire we want, for fire we plead:  
send the fire!

The fire will meet our every need:  
send the fire today!

For strength to always do what's  
right,  
for grace to conquer in the fight,  
for power to walk the world in  
white:

send the fire today,  
send the fire today!

To make our weak heart strong and  
brave, send the fire!

To live, a dying world to save: send  
the fire today!

O see us on Your altar lay,  
we give our lives to You today,  
so crown the offering now, we pray:  
send the fire today,  
send the fire today,  
send the fire today!

## Blessing

Leader    May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water  
              welling up to eternal life,  
              perfect in you the image of his glory;  
              and the blessing of God Almighty,  
              the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
              be among you and remain with you always.

**All            Amen.**

Leader    We have come to Christ, the living water.  
              Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All            In the name of Christ. Amen.**