

*Welcome*

This is the message we have heard from the beginning:

**that we should love one another.**

Christ is our peace, who has made us one:

**he has broken down the barriers which divided us.**

*Break out rooms*

*4 screens in each group for 6 minutes*

*Confession*

We have come together as God's family to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church and for the renewal of our common life. The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion. In penitence and faith let us ask his forgiveness of our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us,  
and make your face shine upon us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth,  
your saving power among the nations:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,  
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all  
your sins that you may behold the glory of his  
Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Collect*

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*Read by Roger Morris*

A reading from Genesis, chapter 1

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*We sing*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh:  
awake and listen for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin,  
make straight the way for God within,  
and so prepare to be the home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,  
and make the fallen sinner stand;  
shine out, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

To you, O Christ, all praises be,  
whose advent sets your people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore!

Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676 - 1749)  
translated John Chandler (1806 - 1876)  
adapted by Michael Perry (Word and Music) (1942 - 1996)

*Gospel Reading*

*Read by David Quin*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia**

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

*We sing*

*Affirmation of faith*

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself and was obedient to  
death, even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should  
bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus  
Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:  
**and we have seen his glory.**

*Prayers*

*Led by Robert Burch*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.  
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.**

*We sing*

**In Christ alone** my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine –  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend

*Peace*

If our life in Christ means anything,  
if love can persuade at all,  
or the Spirit that we have in common,  
or any tenderness and sympathy,  
then be united in your conviction  
and united in your love,  
with a common purpose and a common mind.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you**

*We offer a sign of peace to one another*

*Closing prayer*

Son of Mary, Son of God, we have joined the  
worship of the angels;

**may we never lose that heavenly vision.**

Like the shepherds, we have rejoiced at the news  
of your birth;

**help us to proclaim that message in word  
and deed. Amen.**

*Blessing*

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
three persons in one God, inspire you to live as  
one, that you may witness to the perfect unity of  
his love; and the blessing of God almighty, Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain  
with you always.

**Amen.**

One in heart and one in mind,  
and empowered by the Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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