

**Opening verse:**

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."  
Matthew 3:17

**Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship****Natalie**

Good morning - please come into the worship space and stand as we welcome the word and the light.

God of Glory and strength,  
Spirit of truth and wholeness,  
Christ of peace and justice,  
We come, with all that we have, and all that we are,  
May we meet you here,  
Together as your church, and each of us as your children.

**Song of praise**

Let's sing together a song of praise celebrating God's majesty, today and always:

**GtG010 Sing glory to the name of God** (David Gambrell)

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*1. Sing glory to the name of God,  
whose holy splendour shines abroad  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Enthroned above the crashing waves,  
the God of grace and glory saves.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*2. The name of God is full of might:  
resounding thunder, flashing light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The wilderness cannot contain  
the echoes of the great refrain:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*3. The name of God is wild and free,  
a-whirl in holy mystery.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
A secret wrapped in smoke and fire,  
still chanted by the temple choir:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*4. May God forever be our peace;  
may hymns of glory never cease:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let all the faithful people come;  
sing praise to God, the Three-in-One:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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SONG: [Sing glory to the name of God](#), by David Gambrell, 2009, Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.), from Glory to God (10), sampler of New Presbyterian Hymnal

## Acknowledgement of Country

Natalie

We acknowledge and respect  
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,  
the traditional custodians of this land  
since time immemorial.

We are learning that the land  
is not ours to own, but to look after;  
and that if we listen,  
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.

**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves  
to work for justice, reconciliation,  
and care of the earth.**

## Welcome and Introduction

Natalie

Welcome in person and online.

Masks

Daniel Broadstock - Ian is away.

Baptism of Christ - the first Sunday of the season of Epiphany. Reflecting on what glory means!

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Natalie

Let us pray together the ancient Psalm 29, thought to be the oldest Psalm in the Hebrew Scriptures. Let us pray

Refrain from **Emergent Psalter**, Translation from Emergent Psalter and Wil Gafney's Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church

REFRAIN: [May God give strength](#), From [The Emergent Psalter](#) by Isaac Everett, copyright by Isaac Everett, Church Publishing, Inc. [www.churchpublishing.org](http://www.churchpublishing.org).

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*May God give strength to the people,  
May God bless the people with peace.*

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Ascribe to God, you holy ones,  
Ascribe to God glory and strength.  
Ascribe to God the glory due her Name;  
worship God in majestic holiness.

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*May God give strength to the people,  
May God bless the people with peace.*

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The voice of God is above the waters;  
the God of glory thunders;  
She who thunders is above the mighty waters.  
The voice of God is powerful;  
the voice of God is full of splendour  
The voice of God breaks the cedar trees;  
She who thunders breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
She makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
The voice of God splits the flames of fire;  
She who thunders makes the wilderness writhe;  
She shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God makes the oak trees arch their backs  
and strips the forests bare  
And in her temple all cry "Glory!"  
God sits enthroned over the flood;  
God sits enthroned as Sovereign for ever.

---

*May God give strength to the people,  
May God bless the people with peace.*

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May God give strength to her people;  
May God bless her people with peace.

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*May God give strength to the people,  
May God bless the people with peace.*

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Siblings in Christ, we come to God with all of our troubles, and the troubles of the world.  
Bring your sadness and all that is broken, knowing that God has the power to mend our  
sorrows, bringing healing and wholeness to all.

Through Christ, God's beloved son,  
blessed at his baptism in water and the Holy Spirit, our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Gospel reading - Matthew 3:13-17**

**Kirsty Brown**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

### **With the Children**

**Dan & Natalie?**

Images of glory  
Laurel wreaths for achieving glory

### **Song**

**ATOK 318 Glory to God / Gloria di dios** (Peru)

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*Glory to God, glory to God. glory in the highest  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest.**  
To God be glory forever!  
**To God be glory forever!***

*Alleluia! Amen!  
**Alleluia! Amen!**  
Alleluia! Amen!  
**Alleluia! Amen!**  
Alleluia! Amen!  
**Alleluia! Amen!***

*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*

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SONG: Glory to God, Peru traditional, from All together Okay, Openbook Publishers,  
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## From the prophets - Isaiah 42:1-9

**Gwen**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word  
**Thanks be to God**

## Reflection

**Daniel**

Glory – what does glory mean? Romans and ancient concept of glory through military achievement – but Christian glory is different – different to the ancient heroes – Jesus as the God of the empire, and how that changes empire. How does the Roman empire take Jesus as its God.

## Reflective music

## Offering with Song

Natalie

**URW106 Here at Jordan's river** (Ruth Duck)

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- 1. Here at Jordan's river all is washed away.  
As God's reign draws nearer, nothing is the same.  
Gone are class and status; gone, degrees and fame.  
Grace along can save us on God's judgement day.*
  - 2. We at Jordan's river meet on level ground.  
Valleys are uplifted; mountains fall to earth.  
None dare trust their lineage; none need doubt their worth.  
Still the prophet asks us, "Will you turn around?"*
  - 3. God reform, renew, us; turn us towards your will.  
Till our hearts for learning; plant in us your word.  
May the fruits of action grow from all we've heard.  
As we lose our old lives, God, be with us still.*
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SONG: [Here at Jordan's River](#), by Ruth Duck, from Upper Room Worship book, *Upper Room Books, Nashville*,  
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## Offering Prayer

## Prayers of the People

Helen

## Notices

Natalie

## Sending Song

**Your Peace will make us one** (Audrey Assad)

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*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord  
You are speaking truth to power, you are laying down our swords  
Replanting every vineyard 'til a brand new wine is poured  
Your peace will make us one*

*I've seen you in our home fires burning with a quiet light  
You are mothering and feeding in the wee hours of the night  
Your gentle love is patient; you will never fade or tire  
Your peace will make us one*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Your peace will make us one*

*In the beauty of the lilies, you were born across the sea  
With a glory in your bosom that is still transfiguring  
Dismantling our empires 'til each one of us is free  
Your peace will make us one*

*Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Glory, glory, hallelujah  
Your peace will make us one*

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Your Peace will make us one, by Audrey Assad

## Blessing and Sending

### Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:  
Natalie Sims

Bible readers:  
Gwen Arnold  
Kirsty Brown

Children's time:  
Daniel Broadstock  
Natalie Sims

Reflection:  
Daniel Broadstock

Prayers of the People:  
Helen Burnham

Musicians:  
Alistair Hunter  
(co-ordinator)  
Simone Alesich  
Geoff Boyce  
Rosie O'Reilly  
Kate Scull  
Natalie Sims  
Maggie Somerville

Postlude Song: Thine be  
the glory, by Edmund Louis  
Budry, from Together in  
Song, Harper Collins  
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Musicians: Matthew Lees

Images:  
Ian Ferguson

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Editing / Production:  
Martin Brown  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Alistair Hunter  
Shawn Whelan

### Closing verse:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1