

# Order of Service – 07/01/2024

## Baptism of Jesus

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### GATHERING

*Here, we cross a threshold – we move into a sacred space, and a sacred time, a space and time 'set apart' for the purpose of communal prayer.  
During the service the congregation is invited to stand and sit for different parts of the service, however you are welcome to stay seated if you wish.  
A quiet retreat room is available for those who need it.  
The worship area is wheelchair accessible.  
There is a hearing aid loop.  
There is a children's corner with books and activities.*

### Opening verse:

May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace! Psalm 29:11

### Greeting

**Saide**

*The leader greets the people in God's name and calls us into a worshipful space and state. The bible is carried in and Christ Candle lit – we usually stand (if we are able and comfortable to do so) while this happens.*

Good morning please stand as we welcome the Word and the Light.

### Call to Worship

**Jenny**

#### Psalm 29

*The psalmist declares*

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendor.  
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.  
The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl  
and strips the forest bare,  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

## Opening Prayer

### Song – You are holy, TiS 753

*We usually stand during the songs.*

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*You are holy, you are whole.  
You are always ever more  
than we ever understand.  
You are always at hand.  
Blessed are you coming near;  
blessed are you coming here  
to your church in wine and bread,  
raised from soil, raised from dead.*

*You are holy. you are wholeness,  
you are present, let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!*

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SONG: You are holy, by Per Gunnar Harling, © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress; © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

### Hebrew Scriptures – Genesis 1:1-5

**Jamie**

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, 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.

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

### Acknowledgement of Country

**Saide**

*We acknowledge the people of the land on which we worship*

*As offer our acknowledgement of country this morning we remember that the first peoples of this land also generously offer us their rich creation stories.*

We acknowledge and respect  
the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung 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

*People are welcomed, those present and those online. The themes of the service are laid out.*

Good morning, welcome to worship this morning and a special welcome to Rev Jenny Hayes who will be our preacher this morning and will also preside over Holy Communion. Jenny is a retired minister who lives in Daylesford. Jenny's many roles in addition to congregation ministry include being Chair of our Presbytery for a number of years. Welcome Jenny and thank you.

Today we are reading all four of the lectionary readings through which we are reminded of God's glory and strength and the first day of creation, of John's ministry and Jesus' baptism.

Welcome to all who are gathered in this space and to all who are joining us on the livestream now or later. Be comfortable here and in your homes, stand up, move around as you need to.

My name is Saide and together with Jenny, Jamie, Kirsty, Jim, the musicians led by Alistair and the AV team I will be leading the worship that we offer today.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Saide

*We pray in adoration, praising and adoring God for being God; and in confession, bringing before God the incompleteness and brokenness of the world and our lives. In response we hear God's word of healing grace.*

### SONG: Song of Praise

We offer our prayers of adoration and confession. Let's begin in song with Ross Langmead's wonderful doxology, a song of praise.

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*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways.*

*Descant: Creator we adore you.  
Renewer, hear our praise.  
Transformer you surprise us,  
Be present in life-giving ways.*

*Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways, Great God.*

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SONG: [Song of Praise](#), Written for the Commission for Mission by Ross Langmead for Synod worship, September 1996. Used with permission

Creator, Renewer, Transformer we offer our confessions.

From chaos and darkness you created light, a gift to all.  
Our hearts are heavy from a year in which darkness entered into the lives of so many vulnerable people.  
With you we say 'Let there be light'.

On the banks of the Jordan John proclaimed repentance.  
Our souls are burdened by the lack of compassion shown by the powerful to those in great need.  
Help us to be God's voice of love.

On his travels Paul spoke about the Holy Spirit to the disciples.  
Our minds are overwhelmed by many challenges

distracting us from the call to follow you.  
Help us to remember our baptism and believe.  
Amen

## Word of Grace

*And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 4:10-11*

Come now bring your heavy hearts, burdened souls and distracted minds  
and hear God's word of grace, in the name of Jesus the Beloved our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**

## HEARING AND RESPONDING

*We hear the story of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate (in the gospels); the story of God's dealings with Israel (in the Old/First Testament); and the story of God's people through history (in Acts and the New Testament letters). As we hear this story, we are reshaped and formed by an alternative perspective on life – the perspective of the gospel, the good news. The story is told through proclamation, which may include reading the Scriptures, reflection on Scripture, symbolic action, art, music, multimedia resources and silence.*

*Hearing the story requires a response. We respond by making an offering (of ourselves, our gifts, our money, and our prayers for others).*

### Gospel Reading – Mark 1:4-11

**Kirsty**

... so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region 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 strap 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 upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

### Early Word

**Saide**

I want to start by acknowledging that not everyone here has been baptized. Baptism is a gift freely offered to all who request it, a gift of love and welcome and definitely not a gift that seeks to set one person apart or above another.

So, a question – I wonder what it would have been like for Jesus to hear God's words proclaiming him Beloved. For those who are baptized I wonder if anyone here can remember the words that were spoken to you at your baptism or to the children in your lives at their baptism.

*Time for responses.*

I was six months old when I was baptized so I definitely don't know what was said to me and I also can't remember the words spoken to our three, now adult children, at their infant baptisms.

What I do know is that at every baptism that Ian presided over I found myself deeply moved every time as he said these words:

*for you Jesus Christ has come,  
has lived, has suffered;  
for you, he has endured the agony of Gethsemane  
and the darkness of Calvary;  
for you, he has uttered the cry,  
"It is accomplished!"  
For you, he has triumphed over death;  
for you, he prays at God's right hand.  
All for you, even before you were born.  
In baptism, the word of the apostle is fulfilled:  
"We love, because God first loved us."*

This is God's promise to us, to all people. Let's sing of Jesus' baptism.

## **Song – Here at Jordan's river (Tune TiS 382)**

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*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 alone can save us on God's judgment day.*

*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?"*

*God, reform, renew, us; turn us toward your will.  
Till our hearts for learning; root us in 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

## **Epistle – Acts 19:1-7**

**Jamie**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what, then, were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

## **Reflection**

**Jenny**

## Offering with Song

Saide

*We usually remain seated for the singing of the offering song, standing together when the offering is carried forward.*

We offer the gifts of our money, our hearts and hands, minds and voices.

You are welcome to place your financial offerings in the bowls as they are passed around or by transfer using the details on the screens.

As we make our offerings let us sing 'Christify' in preparation for Holy Communion. We received this song as a gift from a member of our congregation from the Philippines.

I will invite you to stand when the welcomers have finished passing the bowls around.

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*Christify the gifts we bring to You,  
bounty of the earth receive anew.  
Take and bless the work of our hands.  
Christify these gifts at Your command.*

*Sun and moon and earth and wind and rain:  
all the world's contained in every grain.  
All the toil and dreams of humankind,  
all we are we bring as bread and wine.*

*Turn the bread and wine, our hearts implore,  
to the living presence of the Lord.  
Blessed and broken, shared with all in need;  
all our hungers, sacred bread will feed.*

*With this bread and wine You Christify,  
now our deepest thirst You satisfy.  
We who by this bread You sanctify  
draw the world for You to Christify.*

---

lyrics and music by Manoling Francisco, sj arrangement by Palan Reyes © Bukas Palad Music Ministry

## Offering Prayer

Creator God, Jesus the Beloved, Holy Spirit Transformer  
bless these gifts that we offer,  
bless the gifts of bread & wine that we will share.  
May all be used to draw the world to you.  
Amen

## Prayers of the People

Jim

*We offer prayers for the world, for Christ's people in the world, and for those in need. After the prayer the Christ Candle is taken to the chapel space where people are invited to light a taper for their own prayers at the end of the service.*

Loving God of replenishing rain.

We pray for the World.

We pray for a world that needs leadership.

We pray for the ordinary people of Ukraine, Sudan and the Middle East.

May oppressed people everywhere pause, reflect, rebuild.

We pray for people rebuilding after cyclones in Queensland:

may those distressed by climate extremes find stability.

We pray for loved-ones in hospital at Christmas and New year: may they find healing.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

**A new year begins, we wait, we pray for renewal.**

We pray for the Church.

We pray that followers of the Orthodox tradition feel uplifted as they celebrate Christmas.

May the Uniting Church remember that the cross can be a symbol of hope.

May we feel the strength of the symbol.

May the church convert hope into actions.

May Christians everywhere pause, reflect, rebuild.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

**A new year begins, we wait, we pray for renewal.**

We pray for those in need.

We pray for Jan Sebastian and Kay Quisenberry  
as they re-direct their ministries of compassion and creativity.

We pray for Ian Ferguson and Beth Shelton  
as Ian moves to renewed leadership, renewed ministry.

May we all find our path to renewal.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

**A new year begins, we wait, we pray for renewal.**

In the name of Christ, dove of hope.

Praise,

Amen.

## BEING FED

*We are invited to Christ's table to reunite ourselves with him and one another in the sharing of bread and wine. We honour God for all that God is, and give thanks for all that God has done in the work of creation and salvation. We serve gluten free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice.*

### Holy Communion

**Jenny**

Servers: Jenny, Saide, Helen, Shawn, Kenna *tbc*, Jim *tbc*

Invitation

Prayer of Approach

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God we praise you

...

joining with the choirs of angels and the whole creation  
in the eternal hymn

*Holy (Holy), holy, (holy)  
holy Lord of power and might.  
Heaven (Heaven), earth (earth)  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
All glory to your name. (All glory to your name.)  
All glory to your name. (All glory to your name.)  
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)  
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Blessed (Blessed), blessed (blessed)  
is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. (Hosanna in the highest.)  
Hosanna in the highest. (Hosanna in the highest.)*

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SONG: Holy, holy, © Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, from Together in Song,  
Harper Collins *Religious* PUBLIC DOMAIN

With thanksgiving we take up this cup

...

We praise you, almighty Father,  
through Christ your Son,  
in the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

#### The Lord's Prayer

**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.  
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**

#### Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of life.  
food for healing and wholeness/

Christ is the cup of hope,  
wellspring of resurrection life.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

#### The Distribution

##### Prayer after Communion

God of glory,  
you nourish us with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that through us the light of your glory



may shine in all the world.  
We as this is the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

### Passing the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace as you return to your seats*

## BEING SENT

*Having heard the word and shared the meal together, we are sent forth on God's mission of love. We are again on a threshold, encouraged to go into the world to continue the worship of God in our daily living.*

### Notices

**Saide**

*We share the life and work of our community with each other as we prepare to be sent out.*

It's much quieter at this time of the year in the life of our congregation. However if you have some news you would like to share please come and line up to my right, tell us your name and share your news in a sentence or two.

Our preachers for the next three weeks will be Peter Blair, Daniel Broadstock and Cath James. Cath will be preparing the service for the 28<sup>th</sup> January with the First Nations Focus for our acknowledgement of the Day of Mourning.

### **Sending Song – Guide me o thou Great Redeemer, TiS 569**

*Let's stand now and sing 'Guide me O thou Great Redeemer*

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*1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.  
feed me now and evermore.*

*2. Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the living waters flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.  
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*3. When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.*

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SONG: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, by William Williams,  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*, Collins PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Blessing and Sending

Jenny

*The leader gives a blessing to the people for the next stage of the journey.*

### Thank yous

Liturgist:  
Saide Cameron

Bible readers:  
Kirsty Brown  
Jamie Thom

Early Word:  
Saide Cameron

Reflection:  
Rev. Jenny Hayes

Prayers of the People:  
Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:  
Alistair Hunter  
(co-ordinator)  
Joel Hallinan  
Anthony Hinds  
Bronte Potter  
Natalie Sims  
Shawn Whelan

Postlude Song: You are  
holy, by Per Gunnar  
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LICENCE # 604502  
Musicians: Elaine Potter,  
Shawn Whelan

Images:  
BUC Library

Editing / Production:  
Martin Brown  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Alistair Hunter  
Lauren Reader

### Closing verse:

And a voice came from the heavens,  
"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11