

A SIMPLE EVENING LITURGY

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 11, 2021



St. Columba's Episcopal Church
Boothbay Harbor, Maine



CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

In this time of the Pandemic, we are changing and being changed.

What once was urgent in our daily lives is now put on pause.

Other more immediate ways of living and dying are transforming us.

As we contemplate and experience our collective living and dying,
we pray that we can be even more unified as One in God's Love all across the world.

There is great hope in all that is happening in this world, we embrace it all.

Now in these unprecedented times, our world is hushed . . .

In the quiet and the chaos,
we're witnessing the wellspring of new life, even in the midst of death.

All the world is now, perhaps for the first time ever,
singularly focused on the healing of one another
and the healing of "this fragile Earth, our island home."

Almost since time began,
this is also the spirit in which our evenings always have begun.
At this holy hour of twilight, we are hushed throughout all time,
breathing in more deeply, lighting our candles, pausing at the end of the day
together to pray into the love of God's welcoming embrace.

In this widened space at the end of the day,
our prayers encircle the world continuously.
We rest into the power of quietness and the healing touch of God.
As were all those who have gone before us, we too are comforted and calmed
at this hour of twilight by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts,
in each other, and in all creation.

As always, we welcome all to join with us in these timeless prayers.

So come as you are, let down your burdens,
find your rest in God's expansive Love.
This love is sweeping over you and all of Creation,
sweeping 'round and 'round the world
throughout all time and in all places.

Let us pray, this prayer offered up by our friends in Virginia,

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Loving God, our calm in the midst of raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others, even as your Son, O God of All Creation, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, dear God, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit's prompting, a renewed searching of the deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name of great Physician our healer, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://mailchi.mp/vts/a-prayer-and-worship-resource-pack-from-vts-2615050>

With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

A SIMPLE EVENING LITURGY

Opening Responses

Iona Abbey Worship Book pg. 141

Leader: Peace on each one who comes in need,
All: Peace on each one who comes in joy.

Leader: Peace on each one who offers prayers,
All: Peace on each one who offers song.

Leader: Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,
All: Peace of the Spirit the Triune One.

Opening Collect of the Day

Leader: God be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray,

Leader: Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Hymn "Baptized in Water"

Unison or harmony

1. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,
 2. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,
 3. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,

cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
 dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
 marked with the sign of Christ our king;

heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his pro - mise
 one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en
 born of one Fath - er, we are his child - ren

faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Saward (1932-); © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188)
 Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921)

Prayer

Leader: O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation,

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows,
the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings,

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion.

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve.

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: O God we come to celebrate
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us,
and at the heart of all life.
For us when we forget your gift of love
made known to us in Jesus,
and draw us into your presence.

THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel for the Day Mark 1:4-11

The Message

John the Baptizer

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey.

As he preached he said, “The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will change your life. I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out.”

At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God’s Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”

Here ends the reading.

Response

All are invited to reflect on the readings with a symbolic action to declare their engagement with their prayers of thanksgiving and concern; be it lighting a candle, meditating, placing stones in sand, ringing a bell, planting seeds, drawing or writing.

a period of silence follows

Hymn #76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry” (st. 1-4)

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944) after John Chandler (1806–1876); alt.
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889), alt.

Prayer

(Here is opportunity for prayers of concern, spoken or unspoken, each prayer being followed by silence.)

We bring to God
someone whom we have met or remembered today
and for whom we want to pray

(Silence)

We bring to God
someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer

(Silence)

We bring to God
a troubled situation in our world tonight

(Silence)

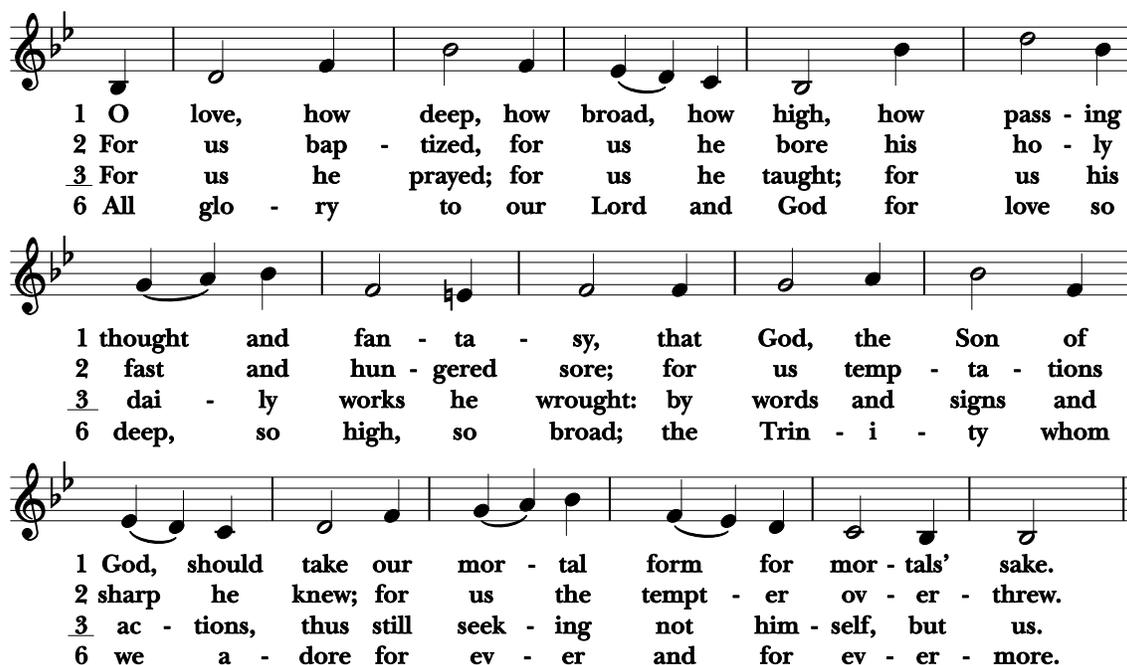
We bring to God, silently,
someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust

(Silence)

We bring ourselves to God
that we might grow in generosity of spirit,
clarity of mind,
and warmth of affection.

(Silence)

Hymn #448 “O love, how deep, how broad, how high” (st. 1-3,6)



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so

1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom

1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819–1885), alt.

Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.;
harm. after Basil Harwood (1859–1949)

Closing Responses

Leader: O Trinity of Love,
You have been with us at the world's beginning,

All: *Be with us till the world's end.*

Leader: You have been with us at our life's shaping,

All: *Be with us at our life's end.*

Leader: You have been with us at the sun's rising,

All: *Be with us till the day's end.*

Amen.

The Blessing

Our God, who created us, is with you;
Jesus Christ, who redeemed us, is with you;
the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us, is with you;
the Holy Three enfold you;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



*Please note that during this time of pandemic
St. Columba's building is closed until further notice.
Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church
32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*

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*Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown
Bishop of The Diocese of Maine*

*Officiant: The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker,
Rector of St. Columba's Episcopal Church*

*Musician, IT, and Sound Engineer: Guy Scott
Bulletin Preparation: Gretchen Feblau*

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St. Columba's Church
32 Emery Lane
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