



St Benedict's Episcopal Church

Los Osos, California

~ Tending Mind and Soul ~

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
8 am – January 9, 2022

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, there's a warm welcome for you here

Celebrant: *Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.*

People: *Glory to God for ever and ever!*

All: *Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, You know our innermost thoughts even before they break through into consciousness; You teach us how to pray. Breathe your breath into our hearts and minds this morning. Prepare us for worship, that our thoughts may turn to you and our hearts bow down in grateful praise of God - Creator, Word and Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Canticle N

A Song of God's Love

1 John 4:7-11

*Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.
In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.
In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.
For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: *God be with you*

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

All: *Lord of the desert river, you search our depths and call us by name: may your flame-born Spirit open the heavens that we might recognize you in the one born of earth, Jesus Christ, the Gift of Peace. Amen.*

Prayers for an Inclusive Church © 2009 Steven Shakespeare

Isaiah 43:1-7

— A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through

the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth--everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."
—*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.*

Psalm 29

**Give the Lord glory, you spirits! Give glory! Honor God's strength!
Honor the name of the Lord! Bow when the Lord comes, majestic and holy.**

God's voice thunders above the massive seas; powerful, splendid.
God shatters the cedars, shatters the cedars of Lebanon,
makes Lebanon jump like a calf, Sirion like a wild ox.

God's voice strikes fire, makes the desert shudder,
Qadesh shudder in labor, deer writhe in labor. God strips the trees.

All shout "Glory" in your temple, Lord.
For you rule the mighty waters, you rule over all for ever.
Give strength to your people, Lord, and bless your people with peace.

The Psalter © 1994 Liturgy Training Publications

Acts 8:14-17

—*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

—*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.*

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke.

People: ***Praise and Glory to God.***

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Gospeller: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: ***Praise to Christ the Word***

~ ~ ~ **Reflections on the Readings** ~ ~ ~

Prayers of the People

Let us lift our prayers to God, saying: Lord, as we dwell in you, may we know that you dwell in us.

We give you thanks for our baptism, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. We give thanks for those who brought us to faith, who inspired us by word and example. We pray for the outreach of the church, for all who are unbaptized, for all who have never heard the gospel clearly. We pray for preachers, for prophets, for all who reveal your presence. Lord, as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

We pray for all who are involved in providing us with our needs.
We pray for farm workers and fishermen, for providers of food and security.
We pray for our police and ambulance services, for all who protect us.
Lord, as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

We remember before you our parents and our godparents.
We pray for our children and our godchildren.
We pray for the place where we were baptized.
We remember the people living along the river Jordan.
Lord, as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

Lord, we remember all who have lost vision, all who have lost hope.
We pray for the despairing peoples of our world, may they know that they abide in you and in your love. We remember the lonely and the rejected.
We pray for all unwanted children, and the street children of the world.
We pray for all who are in trouble or sickness, or any kind of danger or distress, starting with those in our bidding book.....

[Prayers are read from the bidding book;
the people may offer additional prayers, either silently or aloud.]

Lord, as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

We rejoice that we have been baptized into your death and resurrection, and we pray for all the faithful who have departed this life.
We remember the people of this church and community.
We pray that our loved ones may rejoice in the fullness of your presence.
Lord, as we dwell in you, *may we know that you dwell in us.*

Holy Father, who at the baptism of your beloved Son, revealed his glory, grant us a glimpse of that glory in our lives; that we may be ever immersed in your presence, Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.

Clouds and Glory, © 2001 David Adam, Morehouse Publishing

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

All: *God of all mercy,
 we confess that we have sinned against you,
 opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.*

*We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
the evil done on our behalf,
and the good that we have left undone.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.*

*May the All-Compassionate God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power
of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: *And also with you.*

The Holy Eucharist

EQW I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We raise our hearts to God.*
Celebrant Let us thank the giver of life..
People *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*
Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy
God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you
replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we
lift our voices with all creation as we say:

All *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

***Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Celebrant and People

***Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

All: ***Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love Maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The Hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!***

*The Way of your Justice be followed by the people of the world!
Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our
hope and come on earth!
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.*

New Zealand Prayer Book

The Breaking of the Bread

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People: *We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.*

Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A period of silence is kept before joining in our final prayer.

*Holy and Eternal God,
by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed:
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.*

An Australian Prayer Book

The Blessing

May Christ, who draws the nations to himself, teach us to love our enemies;
may Christ, who enters the waters of baptism, lead us to die to all but love;
may Christ, who gives new wine for the world, turn our bitterness into joy;
and may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you all
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

This Week at St. Benedict's

Sunday, Jan 9

8:00 am – Contemplative Eucharist service (also on Zoom)

9:20 am – Bible Study

10:30 am – Eucharist service – (also live-streamed on FB)

Monday, Jan 10 RECTOR'S SABBATH

Tuesday, Jan 11

9:45 am – Prayers for the Morning (Zoom)

10:15 am – Spiritual Conversation: "The Book of Joy" concludes (Zoom)

5:30 pm – Vespers service: in person and on Zoom

Wednesday, Jan 12

6:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal *note new starting time*

Saturday, Jan 15

9:00 am – Men's Breakfast at Celia's Garden Café

2:30 pm – Memorial Service for Larry Swafford

Sunday, Jan 16

8:00 am – Contemplative Eucharist service (also on Zoom)

9:20 am – Bible Study

10:30 am – Eucharist service – (also live-streamed on FB)

12:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUTUAL MINISTRY SURVEY— Responses due by Jan 16

Every January we ask you to take the time to reflect on our ministry. There are two ways you can complete the Mutual Ministry survey – you can go to the online form which is available here: <https://forms.gle/RoQZhXvbWbZur2Ti9> or you can collect a paper survey from the back of the church, and return it completed. We ask you to complete your part **no later than January 16th** so that we can share the results of the survey at our Annual meeting.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Sunday, January 23rd

The annual parish meeting will be held on January 23rd starting at noon at the church. All members and regular attenders are encouraged to participate in this meeting which last about 90 minutes and will also be available on Zoom. Lunch will be provided for those who attend in person.

TUESDAY SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Our current Tuesday morning spiritual conversation based on [The Book of Joy](#) by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama concludes this week.

Then, starting on **January 25th** the conversation will be based on the book, [Benedict's Dharma: Buddhists Reflect on the Rule of St Benedict](#). This seems to be a good follow-on to some recent spiritual conversations on Buddhism and Christianity, mostly centered on the [The Book of Joy](#). This conversation is open to anyone and everyone whether or not you read the book. On-line via [Zoom](#) on Tuesdays at 10:15am. A service of **Prayers for the Morning** is also available on Tuesdays, starting at 9:45. (There will be no Spiritual Conversation on January 18 to give us time to start reading Benedict's Dharma.)

CONGRATULATIONS ABUNDANCE SHOP CREW for a year well done! You contributed \$50,000 to St. Benedicts in 2021 and \$5,000 to community organizations. Praise God!

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

-- Birthdays --

Jan 11 Roz Malone

Jan 15 Faye Hogan

PERSONAL PRAYER – A member of the Healing Prayer Ministry team is available each week after the 10:30 service to pray with you for special concerns. If you'd like this prayer support during the week, contact **Helen Schnieders** at **(818)324-2646**. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

GUANTANAMO WEBINAR - Tuesday, January 11, 1-2pm

January 11th, 2022, will mark 20 years since the first detainees were sent to Guantanamo as part of the Global War on Terror. Today, 39 detainees remain there. Despite this ongoing injustice, Guantanamo is largely overlooked; in December, the Senate hosted its first hearing on Guantanamo in eight years. Many Guantánamo detainees were tortured by the U.S. government, and two decades after the prison opened, most of the 39 people imprisoned there have never been charged with or tried for any crime. To mark this anniversary and to advocate for closing Guantanamo, The Episcopal Church and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture are hosting this webinar: [Guantanamo 20 Years On: A Religious Perspective](#) . A distinguished panel of experts will provide more information about why the prison at Guantanamo was opened, the human rights abuses that occurred there, the long-running failure of the military commissions process to provide justice, and what steps we, as people of faith, can take to close the prison for good. Registration is free but required, see our webpage or online BW for an active link.