



# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 11, 2026

## THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER  
*Diocese of Fredericton*  
*Anglican Church of*  
*Canada*

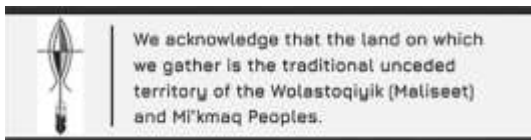
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*Bishop*  
*Interim Priest-in-charge*  
*Church Wardens*  
*Parish Administrator*  
*Organist & Choir Director*  
*Sexton*

Archbishop David Edwards  
The Rev'd Christopher Ketch  
Susan Jack, Terry Ricketts  
Lori Maker  
David Mitchell  
Larry Totton

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The liturgy is according to the *Book of Common Prayer*.

### **THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP**

**Prelude**

**Scripture Sentence and Welcome**

**Opening Hymn** “*Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*” **CP 101**

**Collect for Purity** *page 67*

**Summary of the Law** *page 69*

**The Kyrie** *page 70*

**Mutual Salutation** *page 70*

**Collect of the Day** *as given by the presider*

### **THE WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED**

**First Reading**      Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;
- <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- <sup>5</sup> 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:
- <sup>6</sup> 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,
- <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is my name;  
 my glory I give to no other,  
 nor my praise to idols.  
<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
 and new things I now declare;  
 before they spring forth,  
 I tell you of them. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Psalm 29***

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*  
     ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; \*  
     worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
     the God of glory thunders; \*  
     the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
     the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
     the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
     and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
     the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
     the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 **The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
     and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord \*  
     all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
     the Lord sits enthroned as king for  
     evermore.**
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
     the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## **Second Reading** Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’ [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn** “*Sing of God Made Manifest*” **CP 162**

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

Hear the Holy Gospel written in the third chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew beginning at the thirteenth verse.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Fr. Chris Ketch  
***Brief quiet time held for reflection***  
**The Nicene Creed**

*page 71*

### **THE EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED**

**Offertory Sentence** *for Epiphany*  
**Offertory Hymn** “*Worship the Lord*” CP 385  
**Prayer over the Gifts**  
**Prayers of the People** *as follows*

*page 73*

*page 74*

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. In the power of the events at Christ’s baptism, we kneel or sit to pray.

Let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word, baptised in the River Jordan, and proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner, hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word, remembering our bishop David, and Chris, our priest.

Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire, strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith. Fill us with hope in you.

Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent, teach your Church dependence on your grace, that when we sin against one another we would seek and know your healing.

Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, give hope to all who suffer or are ignored, and who are ill, remembering ....., and mentioning, silently or aloud, others we would pray for.....

Lord of truth,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father, anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit that we may serve you, your Church, and your world, fully resting in your power and purposes.

Lord of truth,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life, as we remember those who have gone before us. We mention them now, silently or aloud .....

Lord of truth,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, Saviour of the world, bring your healing to the nations, to refugees, victims of wars and of random violence, to those who suffer the lack of food and shelter. Guide our leaders to lead boldly for the sake of the common good, regardless of the obstacles they may face.

Lord of truth,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father makes us and all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory. This we pray in thanksgiving for your baptism and in the power of your holy name. **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

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***“Comfortable Words”***

*page 77*

**THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION**

*page 78*

*(with Proper Preface for Epiphany, page 79)*

**The Peace**

*page 83*

**Prayer of Humble Access**

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**The Communion**

*While the church receives communion, in silence, take the time to reflect or pray or sit quietly and to enable others to do so, and/or at any time to join in the singing of the following music:*

**“O Lamb of God”**

*page 84, CP 685*

**“Search Me, O God”**

1        Search me, O God,  
          and know my heart today;  
          try me, O Savior,  
          know my thoughts, I pray.  
          See if there be some  
          wicked way in me;  
          cleans me from every sin and set me free.

2        I praise You, Lord,  
          for cleansing me from sin;  
          fulfill Your word,  
          and make me pure within.  
          Fill me with fire;  
          where once I burned with shame;  
          grant my desire to magnify Your name.

3        Lord, take my life,  
          For I would live for You;  
          fill my poor heart  
          with Your great love so true.  
          Take all my will,  
          my passion, self and pride;  
          I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.

4        O Holy Spirit,  
          revival comes from You;  
          send a revival, my own heart renew;  
          Your word declares  
          You will supply our need;  
          for blessings now, O Lord,  
          humbly plead.

*J. Edwin Orr (1912-87)  
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## ***“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”***

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
And make me love thee as I ought to love.
- 2 Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King-all, all thine  
own, Soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
I see thy cross-there teach my heart to cling:  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
- 3 Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.
- 4 Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame-  
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,  
My heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

*“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”*

Words and Music George Croly | Robert Buchley Farlee

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**The Lord’s Prayer**

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*page 85*

***“Glory be to God”*** (*“Gloria in Excelsis”*)

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**The Blessing**

*page 86*

## **THE CHURCH DEPARTS TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE**

### **Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Recessional Hymn** *“O Love, how deep, how broad, how high”*

**CP 628**

**Postlude**



## Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Joyce Mitchell & Ann Stone
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Pam Boucher
<i>Layreader &amp; First Reader</i>	Joyce Mitchell
<i>Second Reader</i>	Marilyn Galbraith
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist &amp; Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Presider &amp; preacher</i>	Chris Ketch
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Susan Jack

## Those serving in our outreach this week:

<b>Sun, Jan 11, 11:45 am</b>	Sharon Titus
HVHS Lunch Programme	Chris Titus
preparation	Brian Burpee
(Large Hall kitchen)	Carol Patterson
<b>Mon, Jan 12, 11:30 am</b>	Ken Lewell
HVHS Lunch Programme delivery	Linda Lewell
(from Large Hall)	

## THIS WEEK

<b>Wed, Jan 14, 10:00 am</b>	<u>Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard</u> (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
<b>Wed, Jan 14, 7:00 pm</b>	<u>Choir practice</u> (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

## COMING UP

**Sun, Jan 25, 10:30 am** – Holy Communion with Father Chris  
**Sun, Jan 25, 4:00 pm**- Celebration of New Ministry with  
 Archbishop David Edwards and Fr. Chris

## FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING

**Next Sunday – January 18 *The Second Sunday after The Epiphany*** Scripture readings Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

### NOTICES

#### **Celebration of New Ministry – *Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm***

This special service, led by Archbishop David Edwards, is to celebrate our new incumbent priest, induct him into this position and formally enter into a ministry covenant. It will be followed with a meal and if you do plan to stay for dinner, please notify the office or sign the sheet in the narthex so that we can get a rough count to determine how much food to prepare. While we appreciate an estimate on attendance for dinner, last minute plans can change and all should feel welcome to join us if that happens!

#### **Youth Connection:**

This is a shared, Friday night, youth ministry between our Church of the Good Shepherd and Stone Church for students in grades 5-10. Youth in grade 11 or older are also welcome but will have more of a leadership role. Church of the Good Shepherd will host bi-weekly beginning on Friday, January 23, 6-8pm. Youth Connection provides a shared meal as part of our evening together.

#### **Chris+ will lead a five part study of the Book of Jonah** at

Church of the Good Shepherd. Please contact Chris+ or Lori to register by Monday, January 19 so that we know how many booklets to prepare. Two Options: Morning Prayer @ 9:30, Bible Study Starts @ 10:00 or Evening Prayer @ 6:30, Bible Study Starts @ 7:00. Part I - Saturday, January 24 - Introduction to Jonah; Part II - Saturday, February 7 - Jonah 1-2; Part III - Saturday, February 21 - Jonah 2-3; Part IV - Saturday, March 7 - Jonah 3-4; Part V - Saturday, March 21 - The Gospel According to Jonah.

## Seafarer's Mission

We will be collecting items for the Seafarer's Mission during the month of January. Suggested items are hats, scarves, gloves or mitts, socks, wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, shaving foam, razors, deodorant, lip balm, playing cards, puzzle, books, pens, writing paper, postcards.

### ***Happy Birthday this Week to:***

January 12 – Jim Hyde & Ashley Ricketts

January 17 – Doug Simpson

January 17 – Ngaire Nelson

## PRAYER

### **Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes**

GINNY ABBOTT, DIANE CORMIER, FRANCES FINLEY, ANN HOBEN, RUTH NORTHEAST, ELIZABETH PARKS, ELSIE RUSLING, ARLENE TRASK

### **Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home**

ANDREW AALUND, DIANE BASQUE, MARGARET BOYER, EDITH CHILTON, SHELLY CLARK COLLINS, LINDA CUNNINGHAM, JO-ANN DIAMOND, BONNIE DEAN, WENDY DEWITT, ERNEST ELLINGWOOD, BARB ELLIS, DEBBIE GREEN, KAYE MALLORY, PAM MELANSON, MICHAEL PENCHOFF, SUSAN PENCHOFF, CAROL PRICE, MARGARET ANN REID, LOIS SHAW, BOB SHERWOOD, MYKAYLA SPINNEY, NORM TOOLE, DENNIS TOTTON, JOE TOTTON, ROBBIE WONG.

### **Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of *January 11-17,*** **2026**

**Mon:** Blair and Tina Harris

**Tue:** John and Virginia Higgins

**Wed:** Floyd and Ann Hoben

**Thur:** Pam Hoben

**Fri:** Our Priest-in-charge, Fr. Chris

*Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.*

### **Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle**

In January, we pray for all seafarers at the start of the New Year, that they may look forward to a satisfying job ahead and in our prayers we remember their loved ones left behind.

## The Baptism of the Lord

Today, on this Sunday which follows the celebrating of the Principal Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord, we mark Christ's baptism by John the Baptist. The Baptism of Jesus Christ, when hearing from all the Gospels, inaugurates his public ministry as an adult; he comes to the Jordan River and is baptised by John the Baptist. John humbly objects to baptizing Jesus, insisting instead that Jesus baptize him. John's concern seemed to be twofold: (1) John baptized others for repentance and forgiveness of sins, something the sinless Jesus did not need; (2) John's ministry included preparing for the coming of a "mightier" One who would bring a powerful baptism—a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire. Jesus persisted and John agreed to baptise Jesus. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus is seen as identifying with sinful humankind and expressing his full solidarity with us.

Jesus inaugurated his public ministry by stepping into association with sinners by receiving the same baptism as they would for the forgiveness of sin. His baptism by John marked his acceptance of death for the sins of humankind; his coming up out of the water depicted his resurrection.

In what may be termed an adult epiphany, after Jesus' baptism by John we see images of the heavens opening and the dove-like descent of the Holy Spirit. A voice speaks in the third person singular (in Matthew), "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The voice combines key phrases from the Old Testament: "My Son" (the Davidic king as God's adopted son in Psalms 2 and 10, "beloved" (Isaac in Genesis 22), and "with whom I am well pleased" (the servant of God in Isaiah 42:1).

Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, along with commemorating the coming of the Magi, and of Christ's turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from the Epiphany.

What's important in this event is the affirmation of the Father and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of the Son's life and purpose here on earth.