

Jan 10 WORSHIP
Baptism of Jesus

INVOCATION

L: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by David Eck)

L: The waters of baptism call to us this morning:

C: Come to me. Remember me. Celebrate the day you were washed and cleansed.

L: Remember the cross that was placed on your forehead, reminding you that you are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Remember the candle that was lit to remind you that Christ's light shines brightly in your life.

L: Remember the community of friends who welcomed you. The family who pledged to teach you everything that Jesus has taught us.

C: Remember the love and joy that surrounded you on that special day. Draw strength from it and walk wet in the new life Jesus has given to you. Amen.

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

Children of the heavenly Father, safely in his bosom gather
Nesting bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth
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PRAYER OF THE DAY (written by David Eck)

L: The Lord is with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray...Cleansing and renewing God,

C: Wash us clean by water and word. Mend our broken hearts. Lift up our weary spirits. Ease our troubled minds. Help us to serve you with joy and gladness. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

FIRST LESSON—Genesis 1:1-5

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss. God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, and named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning—Day One. *[The Message]*

PSALM 29

Refrain: God of glory, show us your power, shine in our lives and in our world.

L: Praise the Eternal One, you angels,
Praise God's shimmering light and awesome power.

**C: Give glory to God whose character shines brightly,
Worship the Great I Am in this holy sanctuary.**

L: God's voice echoes over the oceans
And thunders louder than tsunami and storm.

C: God is a force to be reckoned with, mighty and majestic. R.

L: Our Strong Creator can topple majestic pines,
And make mulch out of oak trees.

**C: God can make mountains skip like newborn calves,
And the highest peaks jump like billy goats.**

L: God's voice thunders like lightning
Which rumbles and shakes the desert plains.

**C: God can twist trees and level forests.
We who worship here can only shout, "Glory!" R.**

L: God's power is greater than devastating floods.
The Eternal One is our Sovereign forever!

**C: May God, the Great I Am, give us strength
And bless us with peace and wholeness. Amen! R.**

Psalm paraphrase from The Psalms: Remixed by David Eck, © 2011. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON—Acts 19:1-7

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. *[NRSV]*

GOSPEL— Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside 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 thong 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 on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." [NRSV]

SERMON

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down;
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy

catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Assist: Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

We hold before God those whom we find hardest to love, who ruffle our feathers, who make us angry. Soften our hearts and remind us that they are beloved by God as much as we are. Increase in all of us the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we may all be more like Jesus. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our church, some of whom are meeting in person today while others are worshiping online. Although we may be divided by distance in this time of pandemic, we are united in our hearts. Bless us and inspire us as we seek to find new ways to be the church. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God, those who suffer the ills of body, mind or spirit, especially Toni, Mark, the family of Jennifer Ownbey as well as those who we name silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* God of mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray together

C: The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us; the Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us; wherever we are, God is. All is well. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrow share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.
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BENEDICTION (written by David Eck)

L: Through the waters of baptism, God has claimed us as God's beloved. We are family!
Let us go and share the good news that all are welcome to join this wonderful circle of
friendship and grace.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Shine the light.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex. If you're worshipping
online you can pick them up from the drop-off box on the front porch of the church.
Please contact Pastor Dave to schedule a time for you to pick them up.

We are collecting much needed supplies for **BELOVED ASHEVILLE** to help minister to
the homeless during the winter months. There is a list on the bulletin board and in your
newsletter. We will collect items at the church through the end of January. You can also
give directly to Beloved Asheville through their web site or Facebook page.