

Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

"It is one of God's blessings, and one of the signs of his indwelling grace, that I have been so wonderfully helped in keeping my vows. He will, I am confident, extend his blessing to my outward existence as soon as I am ready for the next task with which he wishes to entrust me. From this outward activity and intensified inner light, new passion will be born to give witness for the living God, for I have truly learned to know him in these days of trial and to feel his healing presence. The thought "God alone suffices" is literally and absolutely true." ~*Alfred Delp*

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JIM McNEIL, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

***OPENING HYMN: WE THREE KINGS (INSERT)** ALL VERSES

*Call to Worship

Leader: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night".

All: **We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

All: **The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.**

Leader: This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus' Baptism.

All: **As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.**

*Opening Prayer

All: **We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly**

being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Words: Anonymous, 4th Century.

Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 42:1-9

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 3:13-17

SERMON: LIVING IN THE BLESSING

REV. JON GOUGEON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

***HYMN: #148 WHAT CHILD IS THIS** ALL VERSES

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD. WE SHARE FROM OUR ABUNDANCE WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

***CLOSING HYMN: #164 ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME** ALL VERSES

*BENEDICTION

Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

All: **Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

***UNISON RESPONSE:** **And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen.** Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.

Postlude

