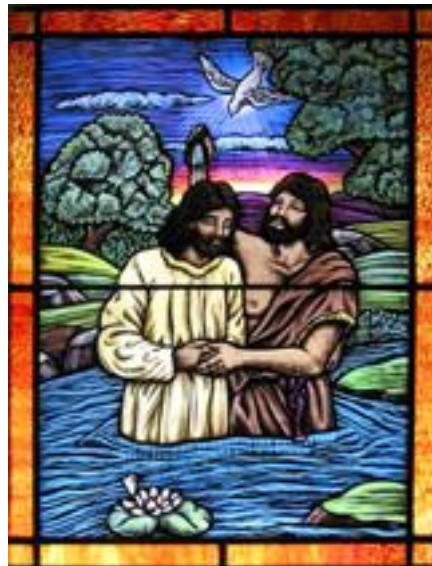


**North Leith Parish Church**  
**Sunday 10 January 2021**



*John Baptises Jesus*

*Click the link below to listen*

**Welcome, Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach**

**Call to Worship**

*(Based on Psalm 29)*

Honour the Lord those in heaven,  
Sing of His glory and His strength.  
The Lord rules the waters and the land,  
The might of the Lord shakes the wilderness.  
Honour the Lord those on earth,  
Speak of His power and His majesty.  
May the Lord give strength to His people,  
May the Lord bless His people with peace.

**Prayer of Approach ending with the Lord's Prayer**

**Seeing God,**

You are the Lord of Heaven and Earth,  
You are the one all powerful God of creation,  
You make light in dark and empty places and  
Nothing is hidden from You.

**Speaking God,**

Your voice is both strong and gentle,  
Sometimes as loud as a thunderstorm and  
Sometimes as soft as the fall of snow,  
No one can silence it.

**Gathering God,**

We have heard Your call and we answer,  
We come looking for Your light,  
Open our eyes to know You today,  
Fill us with the brightness of Your Holy Spirit.

**Glorious God,**

Your splendour is beyond our imagining,  
Your greatness is beyond our understanding,  
Your wisdom is beyond our knowledge,  
You bless the world with goodness.

**Listening God,**

We confess our sins to You.  
We are sorry when our voices and our actions hurt others,  
We are sorry when we are fearful and discouraging,  
We are sorry for our selfishness and lack of trust in You.

Forgive us and clean us Lord.  
Strengthen us to be Your light in the world.

**Loving God,**

in grateful thanks to You, we pray together the words which Jesus taught us to pray:-

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,**

the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*Click the link below to listen*

[\*\*Hymn CH4 112 God, Whose Almighty Word\*\*](#)

**Scriptures**

*(New Revised Standard Version and written only)*

**Genesis 1:1-5**

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.



*January light*

**Mark 1:4-11.**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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.<sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### The Baptism of Jesus

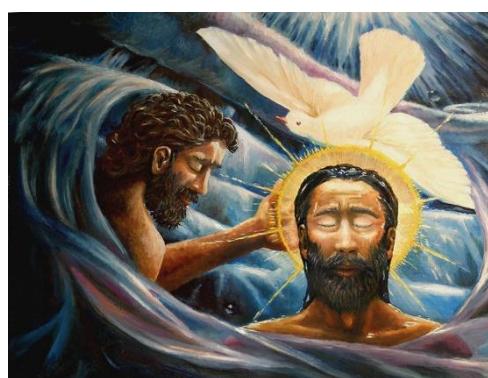
<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.”

*Click the link below to listen*

### Reflection

*The Living Word*



*Baptism of Christ*

*Katherine Taylor*

### Music for Reflection

[Prelude 1 in C Major Bach](#)

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord God, we thank You for the gift of Your Son to the world. Thank You for the gift of Baptism and the new life it brings to us with the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for all those who have nurtured our faith and for the witness of the church through the ages. Thank You that you continue to make good the world today and that You are with us in all our trouble.

Lord God, in these times of disorder and disruption, we seek Your peace and Your purpose in places of violence and conflict. We pray for those whose lives are shadowed by oppression, corruption and greed and for those who are imprisoned unjustly. May they know the light of Your freedom. May the leaders of the world and of our own country, be guided by Your truth and Your wisdom to act for the common good of human beings. We pray for the peaceful transition of leadership in America.

Lord God, in these times of widespread illness, we pray for all those who suffer now, for their families and for those who care for them. We pray for those waiting for treatment now delayed and for all those who work in the making and delivery of vaccinations. May they know the strength, patience and peace of Your presence with them. We pray for clarity of vision in our search for health Lord. May that vision include the needs of the least and the vulnerable first.

Lord God, in these times of distance and separation, we pray for our church as buildings are closed. Bless those who lead us. Keep us faithful in worship and guide us to reach out to others in Your name and with Your love. We pray for our young people. Keep them hopeful Lord. We pray for their parents and teachers too and for the blessing of good and wise communication and learning.

Lord God, in the darker times in our own lives and in those of our loved ones, we pray for your light to touch us now. May it brighten us and cheer us and draw us closer to You. We pray now in silence or out loud, naming those we worry about.

May the blessing of Your love and healing surround them and us today.

Lord in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer,  
Amen

*Click the link below to listen*

[Hymn CH4 139 Praise the Lord, you heavens, adore him](#)

### Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Click the link below to listen to the blessing sung*

[Irish Blessing by Bob Chilcott](#)

## **INTIMATIONS**

### **Sunday Services**

We have been invited to join the congregation of Leith St. Andrews in their Zoom worship at 11am next Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> January. Everyone is welcome and if you would like to be part of this, please email the [church office](#) to allow us to send you an invitation. It is a great opportunity to worship together with the wider family of the church in Leith when our buildings are closed. Online worship will still be available on our new website at [https://northleithparishchurch.co.uk/online-worship.](https://northleithparishchurch.co.uk/online-worship)

### **Moderator's Service for 10 January 2020**

The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr Martin Fair has prepared a service for today. The link for viewing it is here [https://youtu.be/74Ymalwx1EO.](https://youtu.be/74Ymalwx1EO)

### **Church Family**

#### ***From Christine Alexander***

I would like to thank all my friends at North Leith Church for the very kind wishes during my recent illness. Kind regards and best wishes to everybody for 2021.

#### ***From Betty Mackenzie***

Dear Friends I would like to say a very big thank you to all of you. Because of the events a couple of months ago, I just could not send cards this year. However I received so many kind and thoughtful remembrances from so many of you I must say thank you to you all. The cards, phone calls, lovely flowers and gifts were greatly appreciated not only by me but by all the family and we felt strengthened and uplifted by all your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you to all of you and my best wishes for a blessed, happy and more peaceful New Year.

Betty

**Thank you** to Ewan Bruce for his photo of *January Light* and our organist Iain Mackinnon for his choice of the sung Blessing.

### **Christmas Appeal**

The total raised by the Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia came to £1180.75 (including Gift Aid tax recovery). Many thanks to all who contributed.

### **Pictures**

[Zelenka, Dave. Baptism of Christ](#) and [John baptizes Jesus](#) from [Art in the Christian Tradition](#), a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [Water Falls Down 2001](#) Matthew Dalziel and Louise Scullion © Dalziel + Scullion