



January 7th, 2024. 10.00am
Baptism of Jesus
Preacher: Rev Linda Driver
Liturgical colour: White

Kardlayirdi Karnungga
A light on the hill

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional carers of the land on which our church is built.

Prelude

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country

Niina marni!
Marni'ai!

Call to Worship

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. (*Psalm 29:1–4*)

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (*Genesis 1:1-5*)

As we gather,
may we remember the glorious things
that God has done, is doing and will do
in the days and years to come.
To God be the glory! Amen

Lighting of the Candles

Opening Prayer

We Sing: Praise with Joy the World's Creator

1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.
2. Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence –
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.
3. Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure –
foolishness none dare deride.
4. Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
shown Christ's vibrant unity.

*Together in Song, 179, John L. Bell 1949- and Graham Maule 1958- Words from Wild Goose Songs
1, Heaven Shall Not Wait. Words used with permission under copyright CCLI Licence No 37219.
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Prayer of Confession

Words of Grace

Today, may our ears be open to listening to others.

Today, may our ears be open to listening to ourselves.

Today and every day, may our ears be open to the words of God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Community News and Notices

[Link for current or previous BP E-news and to sign up to receive BP E-news](#)

Children's Time

Children may go downstairs for Sunday School. Parents, you are welcome to join your child in Sunday School if you feel your child may need your assistance. Alternatively, you may wish for your child to remain with you for the duration of worship. Activity packs are available at the entrances.

We sing: *Wa Emimimo*

Wa wa wa Emimimo,

Wa wa wa Alagbara,

Wa-o, wa-o, wa-o.

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Almighty Spirit, come.

Come, come, come.

*Together in Song, 711. Yoruba traditional hymn paraphrase by I-to Loh.
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Scripture Readings

Mark 1:4-11

.. so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region 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 strap 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 upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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.

From this, shines forth the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message

We Sing: *Guide me O thou Great Redeemer*

1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain
whence the living waters flow:
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

*Together in Song TIS569. William Williams 1717-91.
tr. Peter Williams 1722-96 and William Williams alt. Public Domain.*

Offering



To give electronically please go to bpuc.org/give

Alternatively, there is an offering bowl near the lectern on the left-hand side as you exit the church.

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Communion

SETTING OF THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of love...

...We join together with the voices
of heaven and earth
and all of creation, saying:

Holy, holy, holy God, of all creation and life,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember....

...that we may know Christ's presence,
through this visible sign of your grace
and be his faithful followers,
showing your love for all of creation.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory is yours God of Love,

for ever, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together in the words that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We thank you for this meal, God of love,
and for welcoming us to this table.
May our lives be strengthened to follow the example of Jesus,
who called us to share love and to serve others.
May God's Spirit draw us closer
so that we may be found
centred in God's grace, enfolded in God's love,
and reflecting God's light into the world. Amen**

We Sing: *You are Holy, You are Whole*

Part 1 You are holy,
you are whole.
You are always evermore
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessèd are you coming near;
blessèd are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread
raised from soil
raised from dead.

Part 2 You are holy,
you are wholeness,
you are present,
let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, our Lord!

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Sending Forth and Benediction

We sing: *For You, Deep Stillness*

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;
for you, deep blue of the desert skies;
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones;
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.
From the edges, seek the heartlands,
and when you're burnt by the journey,
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you.
In the name of Christ,
In the name of Christ.

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Postlude

*Please join us for morning tea in the basement.
There are stairs behind the organ and a ramp between the church
and the car park leading to the basement.
You are welcome!*

Compiled with the assistance of:

*Liturgy, Learning & (purposeful) Life. Worship resources (MediaCom).
Writer: Michelle Eastwood*

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