



EPIPHANY 1
9 JANUARY 2022
THE BAPTISM OF JESUS-
GOD WITH US

A prayer of Thanksgiving as water is poured

We give thanks for water,
such a precious commodity...
Water is everything.
Water is life.
We claim the joy of water
and the way it sustains and nourishes
us.

**Let it flow and pour and sprinkle for
all people.**
**That all may know each day the gift
of God in water.**

The biblical stories also talk of the
preciousness of water.
These stories remind us that water is a
blessing and the source and strength
of life. Without it humanity and all that
is created could not survive.
And our stories remind us that God's
way is the way of compassion and
love.

God's love, like a shower of rain in
drought,
awakens the sleeping seed within
the soul and lures it to blossom.

God's love, like a paddling pool,
inspires the responsive love of
children, jumping, splashing each
other, shivering with wet delight.

God's love, like a hot shower after a
long day's work, cleanses us,
reawakens us.

God's love, like waves crashing on
the shore, breaks in on us and
enfolds us, leaving us feeling vital
and refreshed.

And so we give thanks for the gift of
water; the gift of life; the gift of love.

Come, Holy Spirit,
descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus' name.

Come, Breath of Heaven,
descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus' name.

Come, Word of Mercy,
descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus' name.

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PRAYER

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING WORD

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**To the river I am going bringing sins I cannot bear
Come and cleanse me, come forgive me
Lord I need to meet you there**

**In these waters, healing mercy
flows with freedom from despair
I am going, to that river
Lord I need to meet you there**

**Precious Jesus, I am ready
to surrender every care
Take my hand now, lead me closer
Lord I need to meet you there**

**Come and join us, in the river
Come find life beyond compare
He is calling, He is waiting
Jesus longs to meet you there
He is calling, He is waiting
Jesus longs to meet you there**

**Precious Jesus, I am ready to surrender every care
Take my hand now, lead me closer
Lord I need to meet you there
Take my hand now, lead me closer
Lord I need to meet you there**

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Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Meditation

Afraid to take the plunge, I teetered on the brink.
The water seemed so deep; I was trembling too much to commit myself.
The bank was dry and firm underfoot.
But I did it, and the waters closed over my head, eyes tight shut.
Now there is a whisper of more blessing to come,
Not water but flames of living fire, a deep infilling.
My heart is hammering like a dove in a cage.
Can there truly be more? Can I surrender?
Promise, privilege, welling and overwhelming;
I feel the quiet hands on my head. (*Silence*)
A breath, a bursting galaxy of joy, a stillness,
God's Spirit flooding into my readiness,
Coming home to me as I come home.

REFLECTION

RESPONDING WITH OUR LIVES

SONG FOR REFLECTION: The River of God is filled with water

Prayers of the People

Give strength to your people

Response: Immerse us in your presence and peace

(Those who wish are invited to light a candle as a symbol of their prayer)

The Disciples' Prayer

***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.***

**Amazing grace! how sweet the
sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am
found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart
to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace
appear
The hour I first believed!**

*The Lord hath promised good to
me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

**When we've been there ten
thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing
God's praise
Than when we first begun.**

A BLESSING PRAYER

May God's peace rest upon us;

May God's great love reach to every heart;

May we always sense God's care among us, so that we find the good of one another and never doubt the goodness of God.

Go in peace. **Amen**

