

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

eBlast

January 7, 2021



A Pastoral Message:

Dear Beloved in Christ:

The images coming from our nation's capital yesterday were deeply disturbing. Knowing that friends and neighbors from Bradford County were present at the Capitol to protest and potentially disrupt the results of the electoral college made me fear for their safety. As a citizen who watched the news with increasing sadness, I have a lot of questions. As a priest, I have only two: Where is God in this moment and what is the appropriate response for a follower of Christ?

Where is God in this moment? As a believer I know God was in the midst of the events that unfolded at the Capitol. I believe that God is present at all times and in all circumstances and I firmly believe that God will make something good happen even in the midst of this national tragedy. I suspect that God will help us open our eyes to what is happening in our own society, that God will give us clarity of vision and a resolve to address the issues that demonstrate that we are falling far short of God's desires for the Kingdom of God.

What is the appropriate response for a follower of Christ? There are probably as many appropriate responses as there are disciples. Here are a few suggestions:

Pray. Prayer is always an appropriate response. The BCP offers a number of suitable prayers. Here are two:

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, 824)

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries: through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, 99)

National Cathedral is hosting daily prayers for our national every day at 5:00 P.M up to and including Inauguration day (Jan 20.) You can view it here: [A Spiritual Home for the Nation - Washington National Cathedral](#) (continued on next page.)

Remember and act on our Baptismal Covenant. When baptized, we vow “to seek and serve Christ in all persons in all persons, loving [our] neighbor as oursel[ves]” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”

To live into our baptismal covenant, we might:

- ◆ Listen respectfully and let our conversation partner know they were heard
- ◆ Keep in mind that on some level we care about our conversation partner and remember that they too, are beloved children of God.
- ◆ Look for areas of commonality and when COVID lets us, work side by side to extend our care to others.

You can read statements from our national church leadership here:

[Presiding Bishop condemns ‘coup attempt’ at US Capitol – Episcopal News Service](#)

If you would like to talk about, and sort through your thoughts or feelings about Wednesday’s events, please give me a call.

Faithfully,

Melinda+

EPIPHANY SEASON BEGINS!



Yesterday was the Feast of the Epiphany and the season of Epiphany begins. This season emphasizes Jesus’ manifestation (or epiphany) as God AND man. The earliest Christians recognized the feast as the revelation of God. When the gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now ALL people can come to God’s temple to worship because Jesus is the new temple:

God in the flesh. During this season, we celebrate two more feasts: the Baptism of our Lord (this Sunday) and the Transfiguration (the last Sunday before Lent.) Let’s see what we can uncover together about Jesus during this green season—a season where we can grow along with Jesus and His ministry.



LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Our Annual Meeting will be held virtually on January 24**
- **In Person Worship has been suspended indefinitely by our Bishop - so we pray that the vaccine works and good weather arrives quickly!**



John Garrity	1/8
Phoebe Marshall	1/12
Kathleen Marshall	1/13

Charles & Kay Lattimer 1/11



2021 Pledge Envelopes are now available. Please call or email the church office to make arrangements to pick up your envelopes.

The Baptism of Jesus



The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Choose the word that best matches the definition.
Answers can be found in Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



- ___ 1. The liquid used to baptize someone.
A. wine B. vinegar C. honey D. water
- ___ 2. The river where Jesus was baptized.
A. Nile B. Amazon C. Jordan D. Danube
- ___ 3. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
A. John B. Peter C. Matthew D. Paul
- ___ 4. To pardon for sins.
A. forgive B. sin C. repent D. dove
- ___ 5. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.
A. water B. wine C. honey D. milk
- ___ 6. To break one of God's commandments.
A. sin B. baptize C. repent D. forgive
- ___ 7. To turn away from sin.
A. repent B. forgive C. baptize D. preach
- ___ 8. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
A. voice B. wind C. dove D. locusts
- ___ 9. The Spirit came down from heaven like a _____.
A. river B. voice C. repent D. dove
- ___ 10. To admit that you have done wrong.
A. baptize B. confess C. dove D. voice

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Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



D V Q K S F O R G I V E J M V
 B X F P W G J B A P T I Z E D
 D H R P D T R O H O K X V S H
 K F H V N E I D R E W G W L J
 X Q A E T H J Y K D A L F S J
 V N P A N W T M R K A V F C Z
 H E W P J I J L M N R N E C W
 R Q O S N Q J O O C O Z D N Y
 C O N F E S S C L L J T Z D E
 Y J S J O H N U W O H O N E Y
 J F E I A H I S X T N E P P R
 I P G S N B T T Z H H M G E D
 Q F I B U S I S Z I W H V L I
 B P E O Z S F N D N T I I P N
 Z Y S P I R I T D G R W U U T

REPENT	JORDAN	FORGIVE	HEAVEN
CLOTHING	SINS	JESUS	WILD
LOCUSTS	WATER	RIVER	BAPTIZED
SPIRIT	CONFESS	HONEY	JOHN