



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
A community of welcome in the Borders

12th January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

10.00 SUNG EUCHARIST

Celebrant: Revd. Andi Hofbauer

Hymn Arise, shine out, your light has come

- 1 Arise, shine out, your light has come,
unfolding city of our dreams.
On distant hills a glory gleams:
the new creation has begun.
- 2 Above earth's valleys, thick with night,
high on your walls the dawn appears,
and history shall dry its tears,
as nations stream towards your light.
- 3 From walls surpassing time and space,
unnumbered gates, like open hands,
shall gather gifts from all the lands,
and welcome all the human race.
- 4 The sounds of violence shall cease,
as dwellings of salvation rise,
to sparkle in eternal skies
from avenues of praise and peace.
- 5 The dancing air shall glow with light
and sun and moon give up their place,
when Love shines out of every face:
our Good, our Glory, our Delight.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

Blessing and Dismissal

We pray especially today for
Grace Lancaster and Linda Grant

Dear Friends and People of God,

After celebrating the Feast of Our Lord's Incarnation at Christmastime, we have now entered the season of the Epiphany. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation." And we celebrated the Wise Men, or kings, or magi, last Sunday when we celebrated the Feast because they represent the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles.

But Epiphanytide, the season of the Epiphany, also celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God at his baptism, the Feast we celebrate in the Christian calendar today – and the revelation of Jesus in his first miracle according to the Gospel of John – changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana. God's way of saying, "Here is the Saviour for whom all creation has waited." -- and celebrating the feast and the season of Epiphany was and is the church's way of saying, "And we can never be the same again."

Look at the first friends and followers of Jesus: those the world called tax collectors, Jesus called disciples. Those called sinners, Jesus called companions. Those scorned as immoral, he called forgiven. Those called common fishermen, he called fisher of people. A crucified thief he called an heir — an heir of the paradise of God. Because "Jesus is [not only] in the business of turning water into wine, [but also of turning] sinners into saints, fear into courage, sorrow into joy, defeat into victory, despair into hope and death into life." – Here is the Saviour for whom all creation has waited – And we can never be the same again!

And as the Father's voice was heard over Jesus: 'This is my Son, my chosen' so God's voice spoke over each one of us at our baptism, and speaks it into our all lives – into our darkneses, when life's worries seem to get the better of us, when we turn from love to obsession, from hope to despair, when hatred or prejudice, anger or envy, disappointment or pride mar our faces ... then too God speaks to us, and pray God, opens our ears to hear it and our hearts to take it in ... and he says: You are my beloved son, my beloved daughter, I have bought you, I have redeemed you, you are mine.

Moments of grace, undeserved and unimagined, overwhelming, all-embracing, all-transforming...God making all of us new.

With my love and prayers: Andi

COMING UP:

Wednesday 22nd January, 7.00pm
First meeting of the new Vestry.

Priest-in-Charge

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Toilets are available next door in St. John's Old School
at the end of the downstairs corridor.

Our welcomers have the key to the front door.