

The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ incorporates people into his body by Baptism. In this way Christ enables them to participate in his own baptism, which was accomplished once on behalf of all in his death and burial, and which was made available to all when, risen and ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Baptism into Christ's body initiates people into Christ's life and mission in the world, so that they are united in one fellowship of love, service, suffering and joy, in one family of the Father of all in heaven and earth, and in the power of the one Spirit. The Uniting Church will baptize those who confess the Christian faith, and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the Church takes responsibility.

The Basis of Union of the Uniting Church

Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Sunday 21 March 2021
Lent 5B



Services at MtE are now live-streamed (live broadcast) via our YouTube channel. Cameras are principally directed at the lectern and table/sanctuary but shots will sometimes be taken from the back of the building (generally during hymns and communion).

COVID-19 health measures

- We are now only wearing masks during the singing of the principal hymns (usually at the opening, before communion and at the end). Masking for the quieter communion sung responses is not necessary. Feel free, of course, to wear your mask for the duration of the service if this is more comfortable for you
- Please observe the usual hand sanitation routines on entering and leaving the building
- Please observe the usual 1.5 metre distance between yourself and others who are not members of your family – whether seated or standing (family groups may move their seats closer together)
- Please see the relevant part of the service order regarding the distribution of the communion elements

Preparing for Worship Today

- Today's service is being live-streamed for participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!
- Today's service includes the baptism of Finn Gubser!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude: D Buxtehude, *Canzona BuxWV168*

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

We stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Come, worship the Lord,
***who writes his covenant
upon our hearts.***

This is the day that the Lord has made;
***let us rejoice
and be glad in it.***

Blessed is the kingdom of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 443 Come dearest Lord, descend and dwell

1. Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell
by faith and love in every breast;
then shall we know, and taste, and feel
the joys that cannot be expressed.

2. Come, fill our hearts with inward strength,
make our responding souls possess,
and learn the height, and breadth, and length
of your immeasurable grace.

3. Now to the God whose power can do
more than our thoughts or wishes know
be everlasting honours done
by all the church, through Christ his Son.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 (alt.)

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...grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Revelation 1:4-5

With the Children

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Jeremiah 31.31-34 *I will write my law on their hearts*

Psalms 51.1-12 *Create a clean heart in me, O Lord* [PCS 49]

First the organ, then the cantor, then the congregation:

James M. Burns

Cre - ate a clean heart in me, O God.

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John 12.20-33 *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified*

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Preaching of the Word

The text of the sermon will normally be available after worship and online

Prayer of Confession

LORD HAVE MERCY

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

5 Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

9 Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

Lord, have mercy; (3x)
Christ, have mercy; (3x)
Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Declaration of Forgiveness

(We stand)

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
 Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

The Visible Word: Baptism

LITBIT: To be baptized is to recover the humanity that God first intended. What did God intend? He intended that human beings should grow into such love for him and such confidence in him that they could rightly be called God's sons and daughters. Human beings have let go of that identity, abandoned it, forgotten it or corrupted it. And when Jesus arrives on the scene he restores humanity to where it should be.

ROWAN WILLIAMS

Hymn 494 In water we grow

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. In water we grow,
 secure in the womb,
 and speechlessly know
 love's safety and room.
 Baptizing and blessing
 we publish for good
 the freeing, caressing
 safe keeping of God.</p> | <p>3. In water we dive,
 and cannot draw breath,
 then surface alive,
 rebounding from death.
 Our old self goes under,
 in Christ dead and drowned.
 We rise, washed in wonder,
 by love clad and crowned.</p> |
| <p>2. In water we wash:
 the dirt of each day,
 its trouble and rush
 are carried away.
 In Christ re-created
 by love's cleansing art,
 self-will and self-hatred
 dissolve and depart.</p> | <p>4. In water we dwell,
 for by its deep flow
 through bloodstream and cell,
 we live, think, and grow.
 Praise God, love outflowing,
 whose well of new birth
 baptizes our knowing,
 and waters the earth.</p> |

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Presentation of Finn Gubser

Scripture

The Meaning of Baptism

Renunciation and Affirmation

...Let us confess the faith into which we are baptised.

Do you believe in God,
who made you and loves you?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Lord?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
and the continuing work of our salvation?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Baptism

Finn is now received into the holy catholic Church
according to Christ's command.

(Tune 776[ii]) **The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace,
and give you peace.**

*[The elder will take Finn and present him to the congregation, and then return
him to the godparent while the parents make their responses in the next section]*

Responses

...I charge you,
the people of this congregation,
to maintain the life of worship and service,
that this child and all the children among you
may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the knowledge and love of God.

**With God's help
we will live out our baptism
as a loving community in Christ:
nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer,
and encouraging one another in service.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn 509 Come now, everlasting Spirit

1. Come now, everlasting Spirit,
bring to every thankful mind
all the Saviour's dying merit,
sufferings for all humankind;

2. True Recorder of his passion,
now the living faith impart,
now reveal his great salvation,
preach his gospel to our heart.

3. Come as Witness of his dying;
come Remembrancer divine,
let us feel your power, applying
Christ to every soul, and mine.

Charles Wesley
Public Domain

(We remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

5
hea - ven and earth are full of your glor - y, ho - san - na in the high - est!

BENEDICTUS



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -

4
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**


Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(The prayer continues...)

CHRIST HAS DIED



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain


Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

(The prayer continues...)

BLESSING AND HONOUR



Bless - ing and hon - our, glo - ry and power are yours for e - ver - more

**Blessing and honour, glory and power
are yours forever more.**

The Lord's 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 for ever. Amen.**

(The people sit)

The Breaking of the Bread

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus bear - er of our sin have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.

***Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.***

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward two rows at a time, and stand in a line before the Table. Please leave a gap at the centre aisle to enable ease of access for all. Communion is presently only being distributed under the 'kind' of the bread, to minimise any potential for COVID-19 infection.

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

[Offering]

For the time-being, financial offerings will not be collected from the pews but should be made in the designated offering box as you enter the church. If you miss the opportunity, you can put it in the box after the service!

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 626 Lord of creation, to you be all praise!

1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.
2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.
3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind:
rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,
what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.
4. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.
5. Lord of all being, I give you my all;
if ever I leave you I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Words Jack Copley Winslow; 1882–1974 alt.

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Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude: D Buxtehude, *Ciacona BuxWV 160*

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