

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist
Baptism of Jesus | 11 January 2026



Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those
who can't join us physically today

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Prelude F Couperin, *Tierce en Taille, Dialogue*

The Gathering of the People of God

Processional

If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.

Hymn Lord, your almighty word - Tis 447 (verse 4)

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light.

Call to Worship

Rosemary Wearing

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Let us praise the God who baptizes us in love;
to give us life in all its fullness.

Let us praise Jesus Christ;
who immerses us in his own faithfulness.
Let us praise the Holy Spirit;
who anoints us to love and serve the Lord.

Let us worship God:

Prayer of Invocation

Eternal God, we give you thanks for sending Jesus to declare your love for the world, for immersing him into your mission of reconciliation through water and the Spirit, and for his faithfulness unto death on a cross. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way of Jesus, inviting people to turn to you in humility and in truth, so do we seek to journey with Christ through death into life. Send your Spirit among us, to make us sisters and brothers of the Crucified One, with whom and through whom we offer you our sacrifice of praise.

Amen.

Hymn O love how deep, how broad, how high – Tis 194

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome

The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching

The Testimony of Scripture

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet

and a light to our path.

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

Jill Tabart

Wendy Langmore

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Preaching of the Word 'Beloved!'

*The sermon text will normally be available after worship and online
A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching*

Prayer of Confession

Eternally gracious God, in baptism we turn to you, for you are the author of faith and life. We confess and lament the brokenness that causes alienation:

when love of self leaves little room for you;
when we doubt that your love can reach and remake us;
when the gospel of your beloved falls on deaf ears.

... Just so, gracious God, have mercy on us...



Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Merciful God, forgive us, and set us free as the body of Christ to serve only you. Empower us by your Spirit to proclaim Jesus in all we say and do. In his name, we pray.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able)

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I therefore declare to you Christ's word of grace:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Thanks be to God!

Doxology

Glo - ry to God, in the high - est and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly king, al-mighty God, and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you, for your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
ho - ly one, You a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,
Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

Peace sentence and Seasonal Peace

The prophet Isaiah proclaims the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it. With this breath and through this spirit, Jesus declares:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

Prayers of Intercession

David Radcliffe

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

Offering

(We remain seated as the offering is brought forward)

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts. We set the offering at the foot of the cross, with the whole of ourselves.

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God forever.

The Visible Word: Eucharist

Hymn Come, God's people, sing for joy - Tis 391

Come, God's people, sing for joy,
shout your songs of gladness,
for the hope of Easter day
overcomes our sadness.
Come with all God's people here,
who with true affection
join again to celebrate
Jesus' resurrection.

Years before, as Moses led
Israel's sons and daughters
from their bonds to exodus
through the Red Sea waters:
so the living Lord of life
speaks through our baptism
of the new life which we share
with him who is risen.

That first Easter he arose,
his disciples greeting;
Christians now in every place
still their Lord are meeting.
Christ, who died for all the world,
in his death brings healing;
and his rising from the grave
is God's power revealing.

Come, God's people, sing for joy,
gathered at this table;
bread be broken; cup be blest;
Christ is here to meet us.
Feed us, Lord, and send us forth:
fill us with your Spirit;
go with us into the world;
our peace without limit.

(final verse by R. Gotch)

(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

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...)

.. And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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 in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

(The prayer continues...)

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

Christ is the bread of joy,
who shares food with sinners.

Christ is the cup of life,
who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are, let us become what we receive:
The body of Christ.

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.

GATHERING: We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

Post Communion Prayer

Father of all, we give thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Anchor us in this hope that we have grasped; so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to proclaim your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn Christ, when for us you were baptised – Tis 250

Word of Mission and Blessing

May the God who has washed you in love lead you into the life of Christ crucified,
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Postlude N de Grigny, *Petite fugue, Fantasia*

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:

<http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/>

NOTICES

FAITH AFTER FAITH

Craig publishes weekly on *Faith after Faith*, a Substack site. You can subscribe to receive email updates of recent posts (avoid the paid subscription invitations!). Use the QR image here to check in, or see faithafterfaith.substack.com for more info. Recent posts include:

- Recent Sermons
- New Theological Fragments (90-94): Divine absence and the Incarnation.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

See above for more details on these events

Normal service times in January
CAN will join MtE at the CTM for Sunday worship
MtE will conduct a combined worship service at CAN, 180 Palmerston Street, Carlton
Monday Morning Movies @ The Nova Church Council
Quarterly Conversation on the Quarterly Essay

NOTE Jan 18!
Sun Jan 11, normal service
Sun Jan 18, 10.00@CAN
Mon Feb 2, time TBA
Tue Feb 3, 7.30pm online
Fri Feb 6, 11.00am CTM Library

People to commemorate this week

Monica Furlong, Christian thinker

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Iran, Iraq, Syria

Lectionary Readings | 18 January 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

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