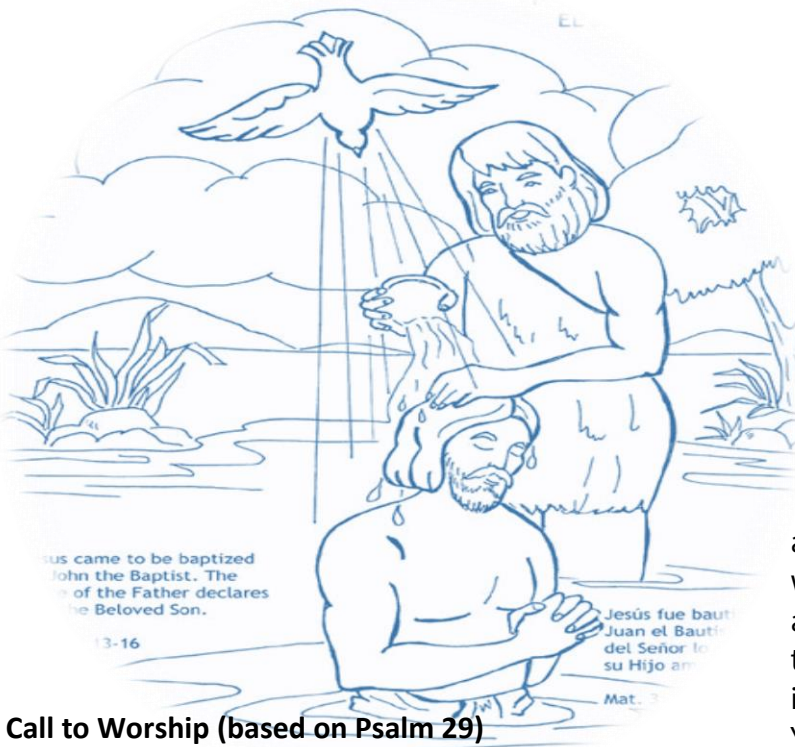


# ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL

Sunday Service  
9 JANUARY 2022

## NEW YEAR - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER ADVENT



endures for ever, Your faithfulness continues through all generations. On this Baptism of the Lord's Sunday, we recognise our connectedness with You, and with one another. We praise You, Almighty God, for You establish the times and seasons. This is a new month, a new year; it is a new beginning, and You are still God in charge of Your world. Blessed be Your holy name for ever and ever through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

### Call to Worship (based on Psalm 29)

*Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendour of  
His holiness (Psalm 29:1-2)*

Leader: God calls us by name

**All: Come, let us worship God**

Leader: God's presence is with us

**All: Come, let us worship our Creator**

Leader: God takes away our fears

**All: Come, let us worship our Redeemer**

Leader: To God belong the glory, power, and might

**All: We have come from the East, West, South, and  
North. We come with hearts of praise.**

**We come to listen for the voice of God.**

**Hymn: Spirit of the living God (video)**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>**

### Second/live service

Spirit of the living God

Fall afresh on me

Spirit of the living God

Fall afresh on me

Melt me mould me

Fill me use me

Spirit of the living God

Fall afresh on me



CCLI Song # 23488, Daniel Iverson© Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music  
(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Music: 1935.

### OPENING PRAYER

Our loving God, like the Psalmist, we have entered your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. This is the day that You have made; we rejoice and are glad in it. For You O Lord, are a good God and Your love

### Confession

Forgiving God, we confess to You the many ways in which we have fallen short of Your expectations of us. We confess our sins against You our God, and against our fellow sisters and brothers in this world. Often, we have failed to testify of our faith in You, of our love for You and of Your care for us. Often, we have chosen the easy way of talking about everything else but of our relationship with You. We have kept faith as those who are now in Your presence did years ago. Have mercy upon us, grant us Your grace that by Your Spirit, we will be true disciples of our God whose son Jesus Christ, died and rose for the forgiveness of our sins.

### Supplication

Gracious Lord, as we receive Your forgiveness, we ask that You be present with us in this time of worship. May Your Spirit unite us together, whether we are gathered here in the sanctuary or joining from our homes. Grant us grace to worship You aright, to hear Your words read and preached with new ears, and to respond with renewed commitment. Make us a people after Your heart, seeking to do good to the world and to bear testimony to Your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us when we pray, to say, **the Lord's prayer. Our Father...**

**Bible Video/ Zoom 'Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_dr9njVzKM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_dr9njVzKM)**

**Bible Reading second/live service (Matthew 3:13-17)**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness."

Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

### Reflection

***The late Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, 'Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness... victory is ours through Him who loves us'.***

And the baptism of Jesus, is an illustration of that. Baptism is from the Greek word, Baptizo, and it means to immerse. Jesus was immersed. He was immersed in the life of the people that He queued up with as He waited for John to baptise Him, sharing their joys, sorrows, their hopes. He was immersed in the cleansing and purifying waters of the Jordan. And He was also filled with the Holy Spirit.

And after His baptism, He was engaged in deep thinking in the wilderness before immersing Himself in the depth of humanity, entering into those parts of people that laughed or sang, that danced or cried, that were sick or suffering – at all times desiring the best for them.

So, thinking now of our baptism, which for some us, happened many years ago. Our baptism was (and still is) a sacrament. Like the Eucharist (the other sacrament) baptism is a means of receiving God's grace, unconditional love and forgiveness, whether or not we feel or deserve them. Like Jesus, we are also called to be immersed in the world, in the life of people – drawing alongside them, queuing up with them, laughing or singing with them, dancing or crying with them, and praying, supporting and comforting the sick or suffering. We exist to be to be as Christ to others; to immerse ourselves in the love of humanity, to be strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit, and, at the end of our time here on earth, to hear God say - this is my beloved daughter or this is my beloved son in whom God is well pleased. So, help us God, Amen

### Prayers for others

We pray for all who are bearing heavy burdens: those facing difficulties and problems to which they can see no solutions, wrestling with inner fears and racked by anxiety for themselves or loved ones; troubled about money, health, work or relationships; all who crave rest for their souls but cannot find it.

We pray for the influence of Your Holy Spirit in the troubled places of the world. Fill us with Your passion for justice that we may strive to build bridges of reconciliation.

*Pause*

We pray for all who are happy and for whom things are going well, that they may know the source of their blessing.

*Pause*

We pray for all who are distressed. Comfort the sad, be present with the sick and make Your will known to them. Strengthen those who are depressed by failure.

*Pause*

Our dear God, we ask that You will help us to spread Your love to our friends and neighbours. Let us think of one or two particular friends and ask that God will help us tell them the good news.

*Pause*

Let us think of the people sitting on either side of us and ask that God will be especially close to them.

*Pause*

We also remember those people who are not with us today, perhaps through illness or because they are on holiday.

*Pause*

Lord, thank You that You listen to our prayers – spoken and unspoken – in Jesus name. Amen

### Closing hymn - Zoom Service

**'When Jesus comes to be baptised' -**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVIU\\_K2nBVY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVIU_K2nBVY)**

### Second/live service: All to Jesus I surrender

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give

I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live

**Chorus**

**I surrender all, I surrender all**

**All to Thee my blessed Saviour, I surrender all**

All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow

Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me Jesus take me now

All to Jesus I surrender, make me Saviour wholly Thine

Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that Thou art mine

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to Thee

Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessings fall on me

All to Jesus I surrender, now I feel the sacred flame

Oh the joy of full salvation, Glory glory to His name

CCLI Song # 6533968, Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter |  
Mark Hall | Winfield Scott Weedon

### Benediction and closing prayer

May the blessed presence of God fill our hearts with the assurances of God's love. May the gracious arms of Jesus Christ embrace us as part of the community of believers. May the Holy Spirit baptise us afresh and lead us into newness of life. And may we always live in trust, knowing that we are God's always and forever. Amen