

# Welcome to Worship

## Balmain Uniting Church

### January 10th



## Baptism of Jesus

image: Monica Saavedra, Unsplash (open source)

liturgy: adapted from Words For Worship Year B and South Sydney Uniting Church liturgy

CCLI #339483

## This weeks Lectionary Readings:

Genesis: 1:1-5    Psalm 29    Acts 19:1-7    Mark 1: 4-11

### The Gathering of the people of God

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land which we gather. We give thanks to their Elders and Leaders, who might be past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the work of justice and liberation.

#### *Call to Worship*

In the beginning, the Spirit moved over creation.

God said, 'Let there be light',

And there was light.

And God saw that the light was good.

God saw that all creation was very Good.

People of God, before we even knew it,

God loved us, whispering;

You are my children, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.

**Come let us worship, because God first loves us,**

**And so we love God and one another.**

#### ***Song/Hymn She sits like a bird.***

She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,  
hovering on the chaos of the world's first day;  
she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,  
waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.

She wings over earth, resting where she wishes,  
lighting close at hand or soaring through the  
skies;  
she nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder,  
nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.

She dances in fire, startling her spectators,  
waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness  
reigned;  
she weans and inspires all whose hearts are  
open,  
nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.

For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence,  
gifted by the Saviour in eternal love;  
and she is the key opening the scriptures,  
enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

*John Bell*

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession*

Giver of life  
And all creation.  
Today we give you thanks for the gift of water.  
Waters of birth and baptism,  
Of the everyday and ordinary,  
Clean and refreshing,  
Swimming and recreation.

Above all we remember the living water which you offer us,  
For it is in these waters we find ourselves re-created, loved, and sustained,  
And in relationship with you and your family.

We recognise,  
That you offer us new life and call us to live in the light.  
And yet so we find ourselves adrift, out of hope and beyond our depth.  
We squabble with each other, when we are really annoyed with ourselves,  
We make poor choices for our well being and the wellbeing of others,  
We forget the big picture of your love in our world.

Loving God we pray your Spirit amongst us, might enogucarge and renew us.

In your name we pray.  
Amen.

### *Words of Assurance*

Hear these words of assurance:  
People of God,  
Nothing can change God's love for each and everyone of us.  
We are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**  
**Amen.**

### *The Liturgy of the Word*

Mark 1:4-11

New Revised Standard Version

4 John the baptizer appeared<sup>[a]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,

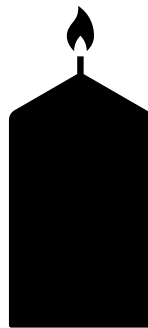
confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with<sup>[b]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[d]</sup> with you I am well pleased."

## Sermon

Grace, Peace and Mercy are yours from the triune God, Creator, Christ and Spirit forever. Amen.

## *Sermon of Stillness*



### *Prayers of intercession.*

God, Hear us as we open our hearts in prayer this day,  
We offer them in this space, both out loud and in the quiet of our hearts.

...

Love have mercy,

Christ have mercy.

...

Abba God, in heaven, hallowed be your name!  
May your reign come,  
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
Give us today the bread we need.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we hereby forgive those who are indebted to us.  
Don't put us to the test,  
But free us from evil.

### ***Hymn: Behold I make all things new***

Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you, and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true for I am Christ the Way.(repeat)

John Bell.

The Sending forth of the people of God

*Notices*

*Commissioning and Blessing*

You are the beloved of God,

Showered in blessings, made new by the Spirit.  
Go out into the world, with hearts full of joy,  
For you belong to God.

The blessing of the creator,  
The Son,  
And the Spirit  
Fall upon you today and indeed well up in you everyday.

Let us go out to love and serve the Lord,  
**In the name of Christ.**  
**Amen.**