

# BAPTISM OF CHRIST

*Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020*

## COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 42: 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, 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: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## SECOND READING

ACTS 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## GOSPEL READING

ST MATTHEW 3: 13-END

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him 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, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THE TRUSTEES OF THE BERTHA TROTTER BEQUEST

- agreed to provide a Christmas gift to a young lady of the parish whose mother (who was responsible for her welfare) died suddenly late last year. This fund was established for the care, comfort and relief of the sick and suffering and for other charitable purposes as may be determined. Members of the congregation may apply to the churchwardens if they are aware of any needy potential beneficiary.

**WATERAID** - Penny and I would like to express our thanks to all of you who supported our alternative Christmas Card again this year for WaterAid. We will be sending £374.00, which with gift aid, amounts to £461.25. A very substantial amount although a little less than last year. However, the sale of our bottles with lights raised £117.00, so our contribution this year will be £491.00 plus gift aid. As you know half of the proceeds from our Christmas Tree festival is also going to WaterAid, so many many thanks from all those people in foreign lands who will benefit from your generosity

**SCHOOL LUNCHTIME CLUB** - There is a sign up sheet at the back of Church for volunteer. This is always led by Audrey or Margaret so they have the responsibility but need a second person to assist with the prescribed tasks. It lasts from 12.15 to 1pm in a Monday during term time.

**STEWARDSHIP STANDING ORDERS** - If you have not changed your Standing Order to our new Lloyds bank account, please do so as soon as you can. And perhaps increase the amount at least to match inflation?

**PIANO INSPECTION** - We have arranged for a further opinion of the two pianos in St. Paul's to be obtained from an independent inspector on Friday, 17th January.