

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 9th January 2022, Baptism of Christ

Old Testament: Isaiah 43: 1-7

Psalm: Psalm 29

New Testament: Acts 8: 14-17

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Revd Jo Neary.

I wonder what you always have with you? Mask, phone, money, hand sanitiser? When I was a Brownie it was a 10p for the phone box, a piece of string and a plaster? When you were a child perhaps it was a favourite teddy? The things we carry with us are useful, precious, or comforting. We need them with us to flourish.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Christ and we hear about the Holy Spirit coming to the son of God from heaven. The gift of the Holy Spirit, God's power with us and in us, the person of the Trinity constantly by our side is perhaps the most useful, precious and comforting presence we can imagine. In Acts 8 the Holy Spirit arrives for new believers with the laying on of hands. In Luke 3 the arrival of the Holy Spirit comes from heaven, descending upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove. In Isaiah 43 the Holy Spirit, the presence of God is found in the words of comfort and hope, "I will be with you".

We need the Holy Spirit. God's presence with us enables us to live out our lives of faith. We recognise the Holy Spirit is precious, given to us at our baptism, a personal and intimate presence of God with us always. The constant presence and power of God with us and in us also brings us comfort. We are never alone. Remember that you always have the Holy Spirit with you: useful, precious, and comforting, enabling you to flourish.

Collect for the Baptism of Christ

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.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm.