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**ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS**

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**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
12 JANUARY 2025**



## **WELCOME**

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice to all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. It is good to have you here today and we hope that you will feel at home.

## **PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES**

As you enter our church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION**

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion and/or receive anointing for healing at the back. Due to Covid precautions, intinction (dipping) into the wine is prohibited.

*If you do not wish to drink the wine, we invite you to pause briefly before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.*

## **LIVE-STREAMING**

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on Facebook Live. During administration of communion, the camera is adjusted so that no one coming forward is visible online, but this cannot be guaranteed.

## **HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM**

We have a Hearing Assistance System available on Wi-Fi, usable with or without hearing aids. Please ask the stewards for assistance.

Please email [office@theodores.org](mailto:office@theodores.org) to join our mailing list.

*Please stand if you wish*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: SP 31 "WHEN JESUS COMES TO BE BAPTIZED"**

- 1 When Jesus comes to be baptized,  
he leaves the hidden years behind,  
the years of safety and of peace,  
to bear the sins of humankind.
- 2 The Spirit of the Lord comes down,  
anoints the Christ to suffering,  
to preach the word, to free the bound,  
and to the mourner comfort bring.
- 3 He will not quench the dying flame,  
and what is bruised he will not break,  
but heal the wound injustice dealt,  
and out of death his triumph make.
- 4 Our everlasting Father praise  
with Christ, his well-beloved Son,  
who with the Spirit reigns serene,  
eternal Trinity in One.

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

**May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.**

**INVOCATION AND GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

## WELCOME

## OPENING SENTENCE

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3.22)

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.  
**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## KYRIES

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

*Silence may be kept.*

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,**

**and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness  
to all who turn to him in faith:  
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,  
at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan  
you proclaimed him your beloved Son,  
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant that all who are baptised into his name  
may keep the covenant they have made,  
and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour;  
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,  
one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43.1-7

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, 'Give them up',

and to the south, 'Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth —  
7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 29

**Response: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters,  
the God of glory thunders**

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:  
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness. **R**
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord upon the great waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. **R**
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:  
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes them skip like a calf:  
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:  
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,  
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,  
and strips bare the forests:  
in his temple all cry 'Glory.' **R**
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:  
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will give strength to his people:  
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace. **R**

**SECOND READING: ACTS 8.14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you wish*

**GRADUAL HYMN: CP 92 "CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED"**

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized  
God's Spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove, and yet  
as urgent as a flame.
- 2 God called you his beloved Son,  
called you his servant too;  
his kingdom you were called to preach,  
his holy will to do.
- 3 Straightway and steadfast until death  
you then obeyed his call,  
freely as Son of God to serve,  
and give your life for all.
- 4 Baptize us with you Spirit, Lord,  
your cross on us be signed,  
that likewise in God's service, we  
may perfect freedom find.

F Bland Tucker © CP 2001



## THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**The heavens were opened and the Father's / voice was heard  
This is my beloved Son / listen to Him**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 3.15-22  
**‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## SERMON

*The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

### *Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

### *Conclusion:*

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## NOTICES

*Please stand if you wish*

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 93 "WHEN JESUS CAME TO JORDAN"

1 When Jesus came to Jordan  
to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon,  
but as his Father's Son.  
He came to share repentance  
with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence  
with which good news begins.

2 He came to share temptation,  
our utmost woe and loss;  
for us and our salvation  
to die upon the cross.  
So when the Dove descended  
on him, the Son of God,  
the hidden years had ended,  
the age of grace began.

3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
to keep the vows we make,  
this very day come to us,  
and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection  
that leads to Pentecost.

F Pratt Green © CP 2001

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now united on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE GREAT 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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah,  
the light of the nations,  
and revealed him as the hope  
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.**

Holy and gracious God,  
all creation rightly gives you praise.  
All life, all holiness, comes from you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
whom you sent to share our human nature,  
to live and die as one of us,  
to reconcile us to you,  
the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord;  
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;  
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,  
sanctify this bread and wine,  
that we who share in this holy sacrament  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

Who, when his hour had come,  
on the night before he went up to the cross  
to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world,  
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying,  
'Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

† Therefore, in obedience to his command,  
we commemorate and celebrate  
his saving passion and death,  
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven  
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone  
you have accepted us in Christ;  
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,  
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts  
may, by your Holy Spirit,  
be one body in Christ,  
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,  
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom  
with all the company of the redeemed.  
May we praise you in union with them,  
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father eternal,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

## AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

This is the table of communion with the earth,  
in which Christ became incarnate

So come to this table, those who have much faith  
and those who would like to have more;

those who have been here often

and those who have not been for a long time;

those who have tried to follow Jesus;

and we who have failed.

Come.

*Please stand if you wish*

## POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

**And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'** (Luke 3.22)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the nations,

we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.

Guide us by your presence,

that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,  
and establish your justice in the earth.

## PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,

**you send us into the world you love.**

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**



## BLESSING

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,  
that your lives may be a light to the world;  
and the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Please stand if you wish*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN SP 26 "CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT"

- 1 Christ is our light! the bright and morning star  
covering with radiance all from near and far.  
Christ be our light, shine on, shine on we pray  
into our hearts, into our world today.
- 2 Christ is our love! baptised that we may know  
the love of God among us, swooping low.  
Christ be our love, bring us to turn our face  
and see you in the light of heaven's embrace.
- 3 Christ is our joy! transforming wedding guest!  
Through water turned to wine the feast was blessed.  
Christ be our joy; your glory let us see,  
as your disciples did in Galilee.

Leith Fisher © SP 2010

## POSTLUDE: MARSH: INTRADA

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.