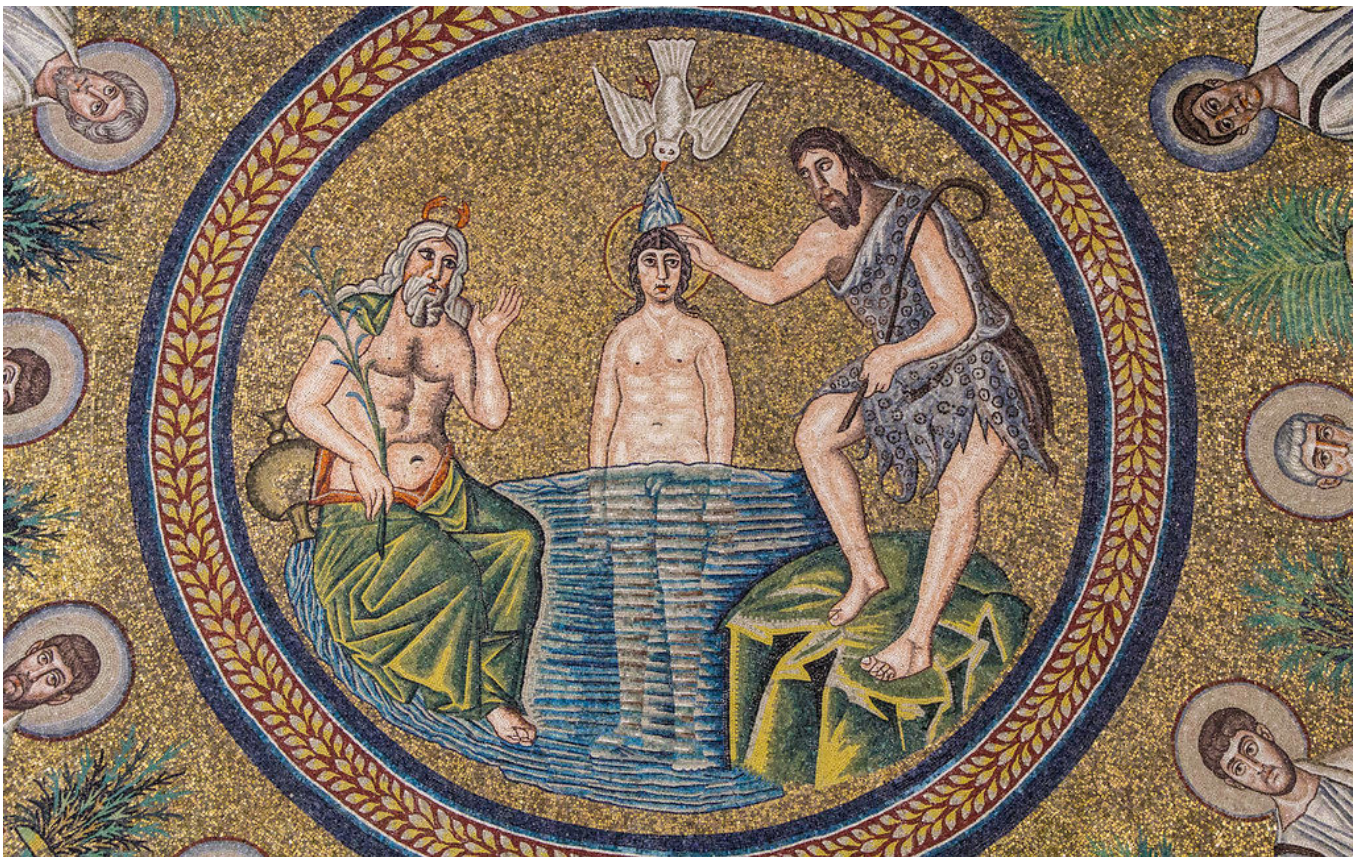


Baptism of Christ



Baptism of Jesus; Mosaic from the Arian Baptistry, Ravenna, Italy.

St Aidan's Uniting Church
11th January 2026
Epiphany 1

Call to Worship

God called the people of Israel
to be in covenant relationship
and be a light to the world.

God called Jesus
“my beloved son”
and filled him with the Spirit
to give hope to the world.

God also calls us
into relationship,
into new life,
into living out God’s reign.

**Let us respond to that call
and let us worship God.**

Prayers

Creator God,
sometimes living in covenant with you is hard,
we are challenged and don’t want to be,
or our inner self is reflected back to us
and we do not want to hear this.

When we hold onto what we were taught
and refuse to explore again
what new evidence means
for those beliefs,

forgive us and help us start again.

When we think that you can only act
in particular ways
or at particular times,

forgive us and help us start again.

When we think that we are ok
because we are in a covenant relationship
and forget this covenant means responding
and being a light to the nations,
forgive us and help us start again.

When we look to the bullies of our world
and want revenge rather than justice,
forgetting the gentleness of your servant:
forgive us and help us start again.

When our faith allows us
to continue doing what we always did
without thinking critically
about where it is calling us today:
forgive us and help us start again.

Help us to hear afresh your affirmation
that Jesus is your beloved
and we are as well,
help us to live a life
that truly shows what this means.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are God's beloved
and God's grace is a gift for you.

When we confess our shortcomings
in God's abundant grace,
we are forgiven
and granted a fresh start
and helped to try again.

Know that you are forgiven:
thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,
we hear in the Acts stories
of your reaching beyond traditional boundaries
to share your love
with all the people of the world.

Now we pray
for and with the many people around the world
who particularly need to know your love,
your justice,
and your compassion
at this time.

Isaiah said:

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.

**May there be justice, O God,
across your world,
may all your people have hope
because they can live in peace.**

He will not cry out 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.

**We pray for the people who experience violence:
at home,
in their workplaces,
because of their country's policies
or due to conflict and war.**

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

**May your sustaining love be known
wherever it is needed;
may it uplift those who need it most
and nurture those who grow faint and weary.**

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:

**Remind us that all the people across the earth
are your beloved children:
may we treat them as brothers and sisters
regardless of race, religion, sexuality, or ability.**

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.

**We pray for those who are
in physical or metaphorical darkness,
that they may see anew;
we pray for those in prisons,
political prisoners,
criminal prisoners,
those in the prisons of their mind,
that they may be freed to truly live.**

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.

Amen.

Benediction & Blessing

God sent the people of Israel
to live a covenant relationship
and be a light to the world.

God sent Jesus
The “beloved son”
and filled him with the Spirit
to give hope to the world.

God also sends us
into relationship,
into new life,
into living out God's reign.

**Let us respond to that call
and live our lives in worship of God.**