



Surf Coast Linked Congregations

Order of Service
 Baptism of Jesus, Sunday 11th January 2026
 Led by Rev Tina Lyndon Ng
 Baptism of Pippa & Florence Davis



Revised Common Lectionary

Introit TIS 743 Praise God

Praise and thanksgiving let everyone bring
 unto our Father for every good thing.
 All together joyfully sing!

Edith Lovell Thomas 1878-1970

Welcome

Welcome to today's service. May the worship bless you

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the traditional Custodians of these unceded land and waters, the Wadawurrung people. We pay respect to Elders past and present. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Call to Worship

Ruth Burgess, Hay & Stardust, Edith Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, © 2005 www.ionabooks.com

Exciting God
 Glorious God
 Baptize us with wonder

Wise God
 Righteous God
 Baptize us with Justice

Holy God
 Covenant God

Baptize us with love

Prayers



Revised Common Lectionary

Prayer by Rev Lazarus Lamilami (1910-1977 from *Uniting in Worship I*) *Bunji* is an aboriginal word for Father
Aralba means - *I have spoken from my heart*

Great Bunji God

You sent your Son, Jesus to be our saviour, our guide and our friend.
At the dawn of this new day we pray for strength to follow in his footsteps
and be true witnesses for him among our people who love the great earth mother
your gift to them from the dreamtime.

We pray for all people of all countries that they may become one great family
with Jesus as saviour.

As we come to the evening of this day, may we go to our rest in the quiet hours of the
night knowing that, in spite of our human weaknesses we have truly walked with
Jesus.

This prayer we offer in the name of Jesus our good friend. Aralba. I have spoken
from my heart.

Lord God, we come before you with love in our heart we give thanks to you
for communicating your love for us, to us.

We thank you for sending Jesus, for coming to us in Jesus, for being Jesus for us.

Jesus our Lord, we give thanks for your message of love and peace
You stand with us and are for us
You bring peace and love and healing into our life because of you we have received
the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

Holy Spirit, we give thanks for you for how you lead and inspire us for how You give
us strength to follow Jesus
Because of you we know God in our hearts

As we witness the baptism of Pippa and Florence
We give thanks for our baptism and remember how we were baptised into Christ's
community the church and belong to Christ. Amen

Confession

And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

These are the words of our faith

Thanks be to God

Sermon God speaks into our hearts and lives

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Revised Common Lectionary

Today, Pippa and Florence are being baptised and their parents and sponsor, will witness their baptism. A baptism is a joyful time for all of us. We are reminded of our own baptism and pledge to care for you, Pippa and Florence.

Today we will experience God communicating to us. God communicating to us is at the heart of the gospel today.

In today's gospel God communicates to us in three ways.

Firstly, by opening the heavens. God communicates to us in a new way. Not just in opening the heavens but communicating to us in a more direct way.

Secondly, by sending a dove. This has connections with the creation story where the Spirit of God moved over the waters as God created the cosmos and all within it.

Thirdly, God's voice comes from the heavens identifying Jesus as his Son, his beloved who God is pleased with.

Imagine what people felt who witnessed this life changing event.

God's voice from heaven made it clear who Jesus is for us and that God is there for us.

Imagine how Jesus felt.

In this picture Jesus rises out of the waters of the Jordan river. His arms are raised up in praise as the heavens are opened and a dove descends upon him. There is plenty of light, glory and awe in this image.

I wonder what kind of man Jesus was and is for us today.



This image of Jesus shows him looking peaceful. In Acts we hear about how Jesus preached peace to all he encountered.

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan makes it clear from the very beginning Jesus is one of us and stands in solidarity with us. He didn't need to be baptised and cleansed from his sins. He chose to be and became one of us, in our brokenness and suffering.

Peter witnesses in Acts to what he saw and heard as he walked alongside Jesus after Jesus began his ministry and asked Peter to follow him.

From what Peter experienced, Peter realised God has no favourites.

Peter witnessed to God loving all people who feel holy fear or awe towards God and who are in right relationship with God.

Peter knew God communicated through Jesus and God had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, especially at his baptism.

Peter experienced how Jesus spent his life doing good and healing people. He knew God was with Jesus.

Peter witnessed to how Jesus was put to death on a cross and God raised him up. He knew this because he had breakfast with Jesus on the beach, after he was resurrected.

Peter took Jesus' command to go and preach the gospel seriously. Peter preached Jesus has been ordained by God to judge the living and the dead. He preached those who believe in Jesus, are forgiven

So, the story continues on.

A colleague, who studied with me during formation, became a minister in the outback. He was a quiet man. A man of very few words. Last time I heard of him, he had baptised one hundred people in a river in the outback.

The Lord be with you

Hymn TIS 491 Father Welcomes all his children

Baptism including TIS 776 Aaronic Blessing

Offering

Lord, giver of every good thing, we bring to you our lives, gifts and resources for the building up of your kingdom and church. We give thanks for blessings and transformation that come through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Prayers of the People

Robyn Harper

In the waters of baptism we were made God's children

*and called to serve one another as we have been served by Christ.
Therefore, let us pray for one another and for all people
who will not or cannot pray for themselves.*

Dear heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that in your mercy you brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. We bring before you Pippa & Florence as they experience their baptism today. We pray for their parents Tamara & Jason and Sponsor Deanne. Thank you for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to baptism, thank you for those other people whom you used to bring us the gospel, and thank you for our ministers and teachers in the faith.

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

We pray for the baptised people of God, that we may hang on to your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from outside. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory.

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

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all people, and that many will believe and be baptised. To this end, send and support ministers, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ.

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

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behaviour and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew dear Lord.

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

We pray for all those effected by the devastating bushfires around Victoria. Please watch over those who have lost their homes and their memorabilia. Please watch over the Fire Fighters and Emergency Personnel who have fought and still fighting to save peoples communities and homes.

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

We prayer for all those in northern Australia affected by the tropical storms and floods. Lord, please watch over your children as they navigate life in these circumstances.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and carers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and in particular the family of the Late Ros Long, and others whom we name in our hearts... *(brief silence)*

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

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of your Son. Accept these prayers of your children in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please join with me in saying the prayer the Father gave us ...

The Lord's Prayer

Robyn Harper

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 forever. Amen

Communion

Tricia G & Ro T



Hymn

TIS 658

I, the Lord of Sea and sky

Notices

Robyn Harper

Sending

Hand in hand with God
 We will walk in light and justice
 Hand in hand with God
 We will be a light for others
 Hand in hand with God
 We will speak and live in love



Hymn

TIS 779

May the Feet of God

May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.

Words Aubrey Podlich 1946- Music Robin Mann 1949-