

Worship at Home

11th January 2026

Rachel Mitchell



Call to worship from Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as King forever.
The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace.

STF 2: Come let us sing to the One

Come, let us sing to the One, to the Father of life,
whose light fills the earth like the sun;
Come, tell of the wonders He's done.
Great is the world He has made, are the myst'ries
untold, is His measureless power of old;
Come, come let us sing to our God.

*To our God who is able to strengthen us
in His grace; beyond all we imagine
Be all glory and praise, be all praise.*

Come, let us sing to the One, to the Saviour of life,
find the fullness of God in the Son;
Come, tell of the wonders He's done.
Wild is the mercy of Christ, is the richness of grace,
is the unending life we embrace;
Come, come let us sing to our God.

To our God who is able ...

Come, let us sing to the One, to the Spirit of life,
leading us in the way of the Son;
Come, tell of the wonders He's done.
Strong is the Spirit within, is the boldness to speak,
is the power to run when we're weak,
Come, come let us sing to our God.

To our God who is able...

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Let Us Pray

Loving God,

Today it is our joy and our delight to share this time
with you and with each other, as we acknowledge
you as the source of our life and the one in whom
we find meaning and hope each day. To you alone
do we bring our praise today.

We praise you as our Creator, our Sustainer, our
Saviour, and our Comforter. We take a moment to
dwell with gratitude on each of these titles, and give
thanks for all the ways in which your love and grace
enrich our lives. We thank you that your life-giving
light shines into even the darkest situations we face
– and that nothing can ever extinguish it.

Today, as we come to you, we ask that you come
close to us through Jesus, who himself chose to
become like us and align himself with us, all to draw
us closer to you – and bring us into your kingdom.

Lord, we know we are not worthy, yet still your
invitation is made to all who turn to you and confess
their need of your grace and forgiveness. So come
Lord Jesus, come. Send your Spirit among us, as
together we pray:

**Our Father, who is in heaven,
may Your Name be hallowed so that
Your Kingdom may come, and your will be done
here on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us the wrongs we have done,
as we forgive those who have wronged us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power,
and the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Faithful one, so unchanging

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you are my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again,
I call out to you, again and again.
You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm, Your love is the anchor,
My hope is in You alone.

Brian Doerksen © 1989 Vineyard Songs (Canada)

We turn now to our Bible readings, which today
focus on the baptism of Jesus, and its significance
for us:

We read: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, the one I support. He is the one I
choose, and I am pleased with him. I have put my
Spirit upon him, and he will bring justice to all
nations. He will not shout or cry out or yell or speak
loudly in the streets. A bruised reed he will not
break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out...

We read: Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be
baptized by John. But John tried to deter him,
saying, "Why do you come to me to be baptized? I
need to be baptized by you!" Jesus replied, "Let it
be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all
righteousness."

Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was
baptized, he came up out of the water. At that
moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit
of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved
Son; with him I am well pleased."

Reflection

The question of whose son Jesus is reverberates
around the early chapters of Matthew's gospel. If
you look, you will see how it starts with the family
history of Jesus. Twenty-eight generations are listed
in all, from Abraham right through to Joseph who is
described as "the husband of Jesus' mother Mary."

The account then moves on to the story of Joseph, and how he adopted Jesus into his family - and with God's help protected him as a new-born child.

In these early chapters we hear that Jesus was conceived of the "Spirit" with the purpose of "saving the people from their sins" and how he would fulfill prophecy. Our attention is also drawn to the story of the wise men, and how Jesus was "born to be king."

Now we fast forward about thirty years. John's ministry is calling ordinary people to turn back to God and to be ready, for the Messiah was coming – and now here is Jesus the Messiah coming to him, just like everyone else, to be baptized.

John was reluctant. He questioned why Jesus should be baptized. We too may wonder the same thing. Yet Jesus insisted. In doing so, some say he identifies himself as one of us, fully human – and yes, this is important to us. Only by being fully human can he really know our struggles.

As people who have seen how his story unfolds, we know that he will indeed experience fully the limitations of his humanity, enabling him to better understand our frailty. His knowledge of our flawed nature puts him in a unique position to see what it is we need, and walk alongside us wherever we are.

Yet is this the reason Jesus gives? When John asks, Jesus just says that this is how it needs to be – it is what God wants of them in that moment, and that by doing this all righteousness will be fulfilled.

Although John may have questioned what Jesus was asking of him, he agrees to baptize him. I wonder if sometimes we too question what God asks of us, especially when it seems to go against our own expectations or inclinations?

...and as Jesus is baptized, God's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son" says God. So here we have the truth unveiled. Jesus is God's own Son, who in this moment is both claimed and affirmed by God, his heavenly Father.

God's words also seem to indicate the path Jesus is to walk, by referencing the words of Isaiah 42 where we also hear of : "the one I am pleased with."

For Jesus this is the moment that marks the beginning of his earthly ministry and it is also the beginning of the path he establishes for us to follow. From it our tradition of baptism is shaped.

However, our traditions are not based on the baptism of John, but on the baptism of Jesus. For us, baptism is a sign that we accept the call to walk in the way of Jesus, to follow him and to put our trust in him. Here, for us, we also see that, right from the beginning "all righteousness" is to be fulfilled.

This righteousness comes to us by way of a gift, just like the promised Holy Spirit. It is a gift that is only possible because Jesus IS the Son of God, and he chose the way of sacrifice – dying our death so that we can be raised up with him.

In being baptized we (or those who bring us for baptism) recognise that Jesus truly is God's Son, and we commit ourselves, with his help, to follow his ways. Later, where others have made this promise for us, we affirm our own choice to follow him, and it is almost as if we stand with him, in his baptism.

For in an echo of God's words to Jesus we hear also his words to us – that we too are welcomed as God's own children and adopted into his family; able to come to him as his sons and daughters.

What a privilege this is, to be able to call the one true God "dad" and hear his words, that say he is pleased. All this when we commit ourselves to follow and trust in Jesus, seeing him as both the Son of God, and as the source of all our righteousness.

Let us pray:

Living, loving Lord Jesus,
as we remember your baptism, may we remember too our own commitment to believe in and follow you, wherever that path may lead us.
As we do this, we ask you, Generous God, to touch us again with the fire of your Spirit and to renew us by your grace, as you did at our baptism, so that we may continue to profess the one true faith and live in love and unity with all who follow Christ - Amen.

Today it is also right that we pray for your church, scattered across all the earth. We thank you that you came to be the Saviour of all people and to call

us all to follow you. We also thank you that you continue to call people into your church and ask that you hold us all in your loving protection and care, until the day when you will come again.

Finally, we pray for the people we know need our prayers today. For our families and friends, our communities and those whose stories have touched our hearts. We pray for those we know who are lonely, those who are struggling with infirmity and those who need your healing touch today. Come close to them, Lord, and bless them. Meet them at their points of deepest need, and lead them onto your paths of peace, restoration, healing and hope.

For you come as our Righteousness and our Redeemer – in you alone we put our hope. Amen.

STF 338: There is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving us Your Spirit
'Till the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus, my Redeemer Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah, O for sinners slain.**

Thank you, O my Father...

**When I stand in glory I will see His face and
there I'll serve My King forever, in that holy place.**

Thank you, O my Father...

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We go with God's blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us, this day and forever. **Amen.**

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