

you chose to reveal your power and glory:
in - of all places - a stable and a new born baby;
in a pilgrim-packed river, through - of all people - an
animal-skinned, locust-eating baptiser;
and, on a cross of wood, through - of all things - an
agonising crucifixion; all communicating the mystery
and greatness of your love.
We praise and adore you, O God, for revealing your love
so fully for us in Jesus, and for renewing our lives with your Spirit.
Amen

HYMN 609: “May the Mind of Christ my Saviour”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Psalmist wrote about experiencing God’s voice
as majestic power and force. Mark told of God’s personal
words of love to Jesus after his baptism by John. We long
to hear God’s words addressed to us, but too often we are so
overwhelmed by uncertainty about the future, or feelings of
powerlessness in the present, that we fail to recognise God
speaking to us, either personally or through the forces of nature.
We long to hear God’s words addressed to us as people
beloved by God.

**Forgive us for listening to - and believing –
voices that call us worthless and unlovable.**

Hear God’s words speak louder:

“You are my beloved sons and daughters”

(silent reflection)

Loving and merciful God, forgive us when we allow our fears
and our worries to stifle your voice of love. As you spoke
so clearly to Jesus, speak to us also so that your words of love
resonate in every corner of our being and we know that
we too are your beloved, on whom your favour rests.
This we pray in Jesus’s name. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our assurance of knowing the peace and joy of God’s forgiveness
is found in belief in the One baptised by John and identified by God
in the words: “You are my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
Know therefore that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 1: 1-5;

PSALM 29 (*UiW page 266 - spoken*)

EPISTLE: Acts 19: 1-7

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 4-11

SERMON

HYMN 250: “Christ, when for us you were baptized”

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING /OFFERTORY PRAYER

HYMN 416: “Great God, your Spirit like the wind”

BENEDICTION

Go into this week knowing yourself beloved by God,
blessed by the obedience of Jesus,
renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE:

(Please remain seated until the end of the postlude)