

Worship Service - A New Beginning

Guest Preacher - Jonny Finlayson

1st Sunday in Epiphany, Year B, 7th January, 2024

Genesis 1:1-5 NSRV / Mark 1:4-11 NSRV

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,
used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Opening Music (video)

[I've Been Washed Clean](#)

Greater Vision by Chris Allman - CCLI SONG #7126029
used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Welcome / Announcements

I'm glad to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other by greeting each other as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Now that you are back in your seats, please stand in body or spirit as you are able and join together in singing the opening hymn

Opening Hymn *This is My Father's World* 154

Call to Worship

One: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

All: Jesus emerges from the water.

One: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

All: "This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

One: Jesus is named. Claimed.

All: We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.

One: Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

All: Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

Invocation

God of New Beginnings, we gather in Your name on the first Sunday of the new year. Help us to not be jaded by the ways of the world, but to trust in Your love that You continue to make all things new, including our hearts and our hopes. Restore in us the joy of Your salvation and place a new and right spirit within us all. May we enter this time of worship focused on You, knowing that You will never leave us or forsake us, and that we are part of each other as the body of Christ, gathered in fellowship and in praise of You. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:1-5 NSRV

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A Time of Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer Prayer by pastor

Hymn *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart - 502*

Gospel Reading **Mark 1:4-11 NSRV**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

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

Message ***A New Beginning***

Call to Serve

As we continue to seek to become a place of compassion and support to our community, we ask that you give prayerful consideration as to how you may support our efforts. If you would like to make a donation, there are envelopes by the collection plate at the entrance. Online donations can be made through our website. Prayers and suggestions are also welcome!

Thanks again for all your support, and may we continue to work together to keep being a place of ministry that seeks to promote the growth of God's shalom around us. Today, as we listen to Annie play, let's reflect on how we celebrate our faith, and how we might use our gifts and talents to inspire others to do the same.

A Time for Reflection

Played by church musician Annie Center,
used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Prayer of Thanksgiving Prayer by pastor

Hymn **As With Gladness Men of Old** **218**

Benediction Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center, used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246