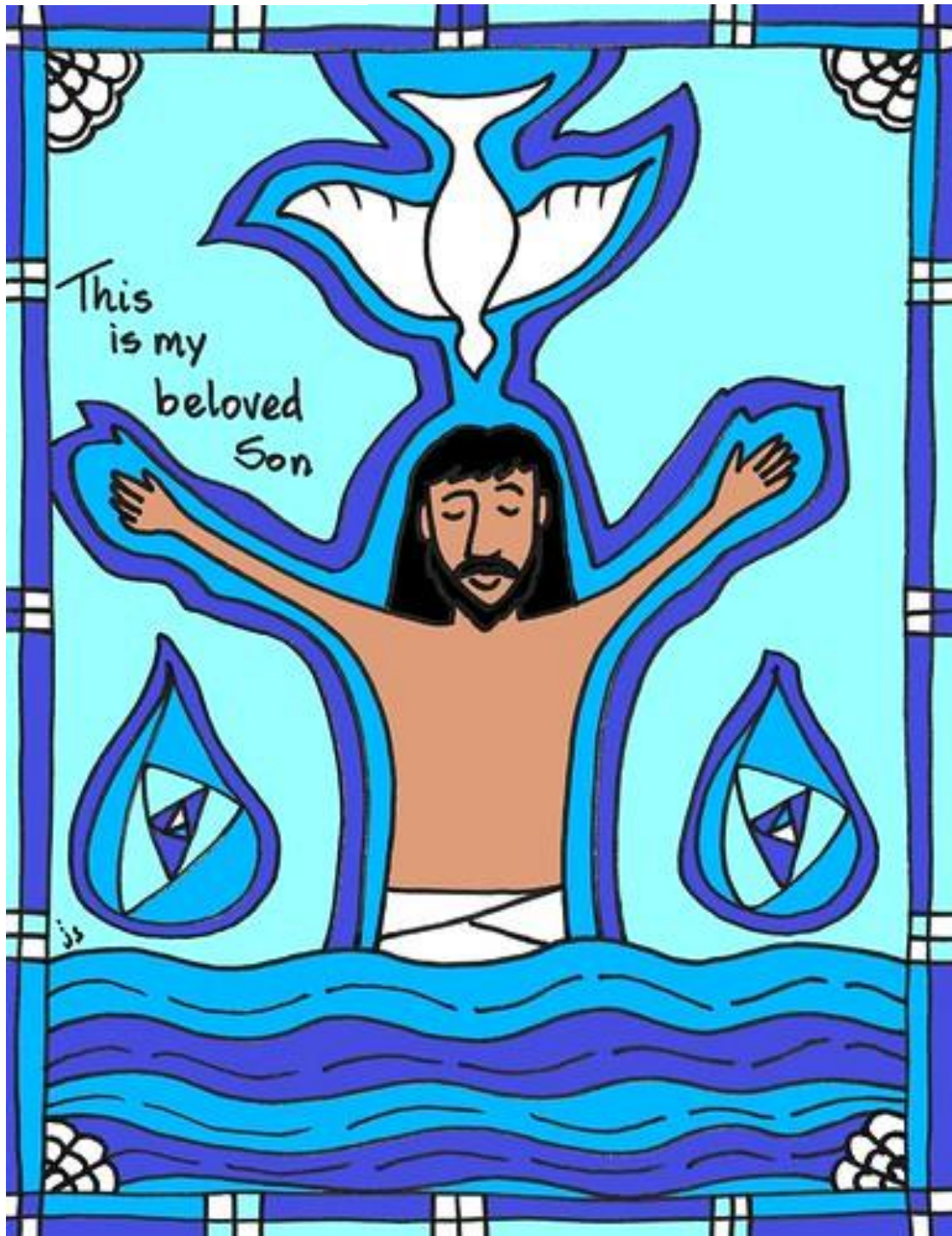




albany[†]greenhithe
anglican church

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Baptism of the Lord

11 January 2026

Notes from Yukiko's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Christmas season, celebrating the Self-revelation of God through Jesus, comes to an end with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Christmas is the feast of God's Self-revelation to the Jews, and Epiphany celebrates God's Self-revelation to the Gentiles. It is the great event celebrated by the Eastern Churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father.

Speaking of baptism, when we get baptised, we do so in the name of the "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." More precisely, when we do something "in the name of someone" we do it on his or her behalf. In short, we baptise on behalf of God – in God's name.

There is also another understanding of "in the name of". As well as being on behalf of, "name" in the scriptural world is often associated with "nature". We are all baptised, immersed, into the nature of Christ. The gradual hymn Andrew chose at Holy Cross for this Sunday (I believe the Holy Spirit helps him choose it!) is "I have called you by your name," (one of my favourites!). As we sing it, you are invited to reflect your identity given at your baptism together with others. May we be found worthy of our calling.

In Christ, *Yukiko*

Readings

1st Reading: Isa 42:1-9
Psalm Ps 29
2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

This week's summary:

1st Reading: The Jews in Exile are called upon to exercise a new sort of leadership among the nations.
2nd Reading: The baptised Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit, but only after a visit from the apostles.
Gospel: Jesus, baptised by John the Baptist, seeks complete identification with all humanity.

Sentence

My people, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.'
Isaiah 41:8,9

Collect of the Day

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;
may we be strengthened to share his baptism,
strengthened to share his cup,
and ready to serve him forever. **Amen**

This Week's Service Songs (Andrew)

Opening: Turn Turn Turn
Gospel: I have called you by your name
Offertory: A New Commandment
Recession: Give thanks with a grateful heart

Rosters

Holy Cross

Sacristan	Yukiko
Welcomer	Ria
1 Readings	Trish D
2 Readings	Bernadette
Presiding	Les
Prayers	Yukiko
TV Setup & Slides	Karenne
Morning Tea	June & Trish G
Flowers	Ria

St Michaels

	<u>11th January</u>
Welcome & Prayers	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Bruce Goertz
Presiding	Bruce Goertz

Liturgical Colour: white

Contacts during January

<u>Vicar</u>	The Rev'd Yukiko Wakui- Khaw
Confidential Email	Vicar@agac.org.nz
<u>Minister</u>	The Rev'd Les Doss
Phone	(09) 415 7619
<u>Deacon</u>	The Rev'd Bruce Goertz
Office:	office@agac.org.nz

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Church

www.agac.org.nz

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00