

Baptism of the Lord
2nd Sunday After Epiphany
January 17, 2021



God is Holding Your Life

A Journey of Assurance for the New Year

“Where Can I Go?”

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection and music. Let us worship God, who is holding our lives.

Threshold Moment

“God is Holding Your Life”

**Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.
From where will help and rescue come?
We call the One who made the earth,
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.
God is holding your life**

God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe
[repeat refrain]

Opening Collect Prayer

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

God who IS...you never leave our side. Open us this day to feeling and knowing your loving presence deep in our hearts so that we might show forth your love to those whom we providentially meet; may we be signposts of God pointing faithfully to you and your reign of right relationship on earth as it is in heaven.

People: We praise you for your holy attention, which is holding our lives in tender care. Amen.

Hymn GTG 488 *"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"* verses 1-3

- 1 "I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."
- 3 "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

Psalm Reading

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Psalm 139: 1-18
Lukan Psalter translation

ADONAI, you've searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up,
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places;
and are acquainted with all of my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips;
but you, O God, know it altogether.
You press upon me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
it is so high I cannot attain it!

Where can I go then from your Spirit,
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand will lead me,
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
darkness and light to you are both alike.

You created my inmost being
and stitched me together in my mother's womb.
For all these mysteries I thank you—
for the wonder of myself,
for the wonder of your works—
my soul knows it well.
My frame was not hidden from you
while I was being made in that secret place,
knitted together in the depths of the earth;
your eyes saw my body even there.

All of my days
were written in your book,
all of them planned
before even the first of them came to be.

How precious your thoughts are to me, ADONAI!
How impossible to number them!
I could no more count them
than I could count the sand.
But suppose I could?
You would still be with me!

Psalm Song

**Introduction from Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
and
Song: "Where Can I Go?"**

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Instrumental Music

Offering

Diane Adams, Liturgist

“Selah” Moment

Diane Adams, Liturgist

We come to our moment of “Selah”—that mysterious word found in the Psalms that invites us to pause. We will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath. Settle your heart and know that you are held in the hands of the Divine. We will hear the sound of the bell and then have some silence. During this time of silence feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear the sound of the bell again, open your eyes.

Time of Silence

Prayers of the People

Each week we will have a moment to write prayer concerns on small pieces of paper. We will then place these prayers in a container [*bowl, box, etc*—a symbolic action of placing them in God’s hands, God’s care. At this time you will have a moment to write your prayer concerns on small pieces of paper and place them in the container before you.

Time for Writing Prayer Concerns

Liturgist: Let the people say, “Selah”

People: Selah!

Liturgist: Let us continue our prayers. As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God’s love and peace, and in preparation to be God’s love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort,

for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One,
for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,

hear our prayer.

Now we are bold to pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

[People sing]

Sung Prayer Response

"Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands"

**Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

Passing the Peace

Diane Adams, Liturgist

Will you make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us? If you are alone, place your cupped hands over your heart, as a sign that you send your heartfelt peace out to the world.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

[People sing]

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Now go in the knowledge that God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.
You are not alone.
You are loved. Amen.

Postlude

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