



# The Shepherd's Voice

January 8, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

## 'Being A Beloved Son~Daughter'

“...and the Holy Spirit descended upon (Jesus) in bodily form like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’.” Luke 3: 22

I can't imagine what it would have been like to hear the Voice of the Father in heaven speak those words aloud about His Son Jesus! What a miracle in itself! Who heard this voice? Was it everyone there? Or maybe just a few of the soon to be disciples? Or maybe it was just John the Baptist himself who later related this to one of the disciples? One does not know, neither do the scholars. But it is the testimony that St. Luke, St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Peter (2 Pet 1:17) all bring to us down through the centuries. The Voice of the Lord spoke audibly and it was witnessed that Jesus of Nazareth was the One of whom God was speaking. That Voice identified Jesus as Son of God, Messiah.

As we see Jesus coming up out of the waters of baptism by John, the Spirit in bodily form is present to validate for all of us that this act of worship by Jesus to undergo a human baptism was the means by which the grace of God would flow forth through Him to the people who came to Him. Jesus would fulfill all that the Father had willed for Him. He was given every grace He needed in that moment of identification with the Father as His 'Beloved Son'. It was the initiation of His mission to ascend to the cross of Calvary for us, bearing our sins so that we could know Him as our 'brother' ~the Son of God~ who would identify Himself with those who would believe in Him and receive His gift of life He was giving us. How magnificent a plan the Father was unfolding out of the waters of baptism.

Still today, He has a magnificent plan for each of us who believe in His Beloved Son, Jesus; a plan for our whole life and fullness of meaning within our lives. He speaks His Word through His Son Jesus to each of us who take that step of faith to 'hear' the Voice of the Father through the Word of Scripture and the empowering of His Spirit. He unclogs our ears and opens our minds and connects them to our hearts...to know that He is God, His only begotten Son, “to the end that all that believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life”. (John 3:16) Yes, today, allow yourselves to hear the Father speaking His Word to you. Listen to Him as He speaks through His Son and says to you, “You, \_\_\_\_\_, are My beloved son/daughter, with whom I am well-pleased!” Stop right there. Say it again. Now say, “I, \_\_\_\_\_, am God's beloved.” “I am loved beyond anything else that God can love.” “I am the very precious gift of God who has life in all its fullness to reflect the radiance of God's love with me to the others around me.” “I am beautiful. I am blessed. I am His *Beloved!*” Now, knowing deeply this new reality, look at yourself in the mirror somewhere, even if it's in the car, and say, “I am loved forever by my Father in heaven, and He's showering me with enough grace to meet the demands of just this day, and He will tomorrow too!” God will give you all the grace you need to handle the challenges ahead. For you are His beloved. You are an heir of His Kingdom, a beloved son/daughter who will inherit all the rights, privileges, and opportunities and potentialities of heaven. I am an eternal being who will be with my Father in heaven forever, with His Son, Jesus, who will guide me home to be in heaven forever!

Now, knowing all this, why are we worrying today? Why are we afraid today? Why do we think we are alone today? If any of those feelings are present, say the sayings above again, and again. And, look at yourself in the mirror and say, “I belong to God; I'm His precious, beloved,

son/daughter"! Now then, come and worship Him in His Church with all your other brothers and sisters who all have the same Father. Come tonight and enjoy the teaching from Donna Brayton that brings together in the teachings and fellowship all that our Father in heaven begs us to receive so that we'll have the essential grace to carry out our mission on earth. Come into community and learn the immeasurable grace He gives to each of us each day to overcome the world and its evils. Come and

be together during this season of Epiphany when the true Light shines into the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Come and know that each of us considers one another 'the beloved' of God.

Love in Christ...always,  
Fr. Joe

**Sunday Servers this week...**

January 13, 2013	1 Epiphany	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Isiah 42:1-9	Nancy White	Petey Seibold
Psalm Reader	Psalm 89:1-29	Choir	Ann Fox
Second Reader	Acts 10:34-38	Paula Sholly	Cline Handy
Intercessors		Acolyte	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		John & Myrna Lipnicke	Cline Handy, Carolyn Blumberg
Acolytes		Joy Rosendale	Mitch D (C); Kaylie M (T1); Zachary J (T2)
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke, Paula Sholly	Chris Corey, Anna Teixeira
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Jackie Lansing	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day	Dink Nash		
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Rudy Theobald	Petey Seibold, Kari Campbell
Announcer		Jani Dubski	JR Fox

## The Bishop is coming!

Bishop Bill Thompson will be at Grace on February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you want to be baptized, confirmed, or received while the Bishop is here, please contact the church office.

### Tuesdays in January and Beyond

Jan 8th-Feb 5th and Feb. 26-Mar. 19th  
Donna Brayton's life-changing course on the Sermon on the Mount will begin this Tuesday, January 8 with a potluck @ 6:30PM. This is Jesus' powerful teaching on how to live as a truly committed follower of Christ in community with others. Be sure to sign up at the book table in the Narthex. Come at 6:30 p.m. with food to share and stay for this wonderful series.

# Soaking Prayer

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Bring your family, your friends,  
your neighbors.

Come "soak" in the presence of the Lord.

## Sunday at Grace

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
with choir  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Adult Forum  
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens  
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with'  
Worship Team  
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

# Happy New Year!

## Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 89:1-29  
Acts 10:34-38  
Luke 3:15-22

We are using the English Standard  
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary  
from the Book of Common Prayer  
(Year C)

### This Week at Grace –Jan. 8-Jan. 15, 2013

#### Tues. January 8

- 11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC  
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Sermon on the Mount Teaching

#### Wed January 9

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. **Soaking Prayer**

#### Thurs. January 10

- 7:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis  
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club  
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

#### Fri. January 11

- 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

#### Sat. January 12

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. Prayers & Squares  
2:00 p.m. Frank Comstock Memorial Service

#### Sun. January 13

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir  
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Adult Ed.  
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens  
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team

#### Mon. January 14

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

#### Tues. January 15

- 11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer & Eucharist at CHC  
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Potluck Supper  
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's class on  
The Sermon on the Mount.

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of  
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.  
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican**  
**All are welcome to attend.**

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting  
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of  
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:  
[www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

## Save the date!

- Jan. 9 Soaking Prayer  
Jan. 12 Prayers & Squares at 9:30 a.m.  
Jan. 12 Frank Comstock Memorial – 2:00 p.m.  
Jan. 20 Praise Service at Grace – 4:00 p.m.  
Jan. 27 **All Parish Annual Meeting**  
Feb. 2 Grand Ultreya at Grace  
Feb. 16&17 Bishop Bill at Grace  
Feb. 23 Combined Vestry Retreat at Grace  
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home