

Reaffirming our Baptismal Vows



Sunday March 27th, 10:30am
Church of the Advent

Next Steps:

- If you are interested, sign up now and commit to attending the preparation sessions.
- If, after learning more, you decide you wish to reaffirm your baptismal vows before Bishop, you need to let Fr Jonathan know.

Reaffirmation Teaching Session #1

Ash Wednesday, March 9

7pm Penitential Service at St Mark and Calvary

Reaffirmation Teaching Session #2

Wednesday Mar. 16

7pm Lenten Eucharist at the Advent

Reaffirmation Teaching Session #3

Wednesday Mar. 23

7pm Lenten Eucharist at SMC

Reaffirmation Teaching Session #3

REAFFIRMING OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

"In the beginning..." Fittingly, these are the first words of the Bible (Genesis 1.1) And what were things like in the beginning? Perfect? No, things were rather messy, even chaotic. Someone has compared the primordial condition to a cosmic soup, everything being mixed up together.

And then what happens? God's speaks, his Spirit broods (like a nesting bird) over the face of the deep, and things take on order, things become clear – there is light!

Now this story is told to provide insight into God's relation to the world - how everything that *is*, all existence, depends on God's Word and Spirit. This means that God is upholding his creation at every moment.

As an older Anglican prayer expresses it God is "*Creator and Preserver* of all things." Another way of expressing this is to say that God is constantly creating, just the way the hands of the potter are continuously moulding the clay into a new shape.

We believe Jesus to be the Eternal Word of God who holds all things together. The witness of his first followers and the witness of the Scriptures tell us that the Spirit dwells continuously in Jesus. By faith and by Baptism, we receive this Spirit, the Spirit of love revealed in Jesus life, death and rising.

Just as creation depends on the continuous shaping by the Word and Spirit of the Father, the shape we are in as Christians depends on these renewing sources of God's love: Word and Spirit.

When we are baptized we *are* born again, re-shaped as expressions God's new creation in Christ. But we need to stay in 'synch' with the creative Word and Spirit of God, so we can live again and become mature.

Personal re-affirmation of our vows before the Bishop is one way of "shaping up" our spiritual life, and renewing our commitment to follow our Lord. If you are interested in discovering whether taking this step is right for you now, please put your name down on the sign-up sheet, and make every effort to attend the preparation sessions, beginning Ash Wednesday, Mar. 9, following the 7pm Penitential Service at Saint Mark and Calvary, 21 Blackthorn Ave.