

*An Advent to Epiphany Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney*



*Christ Blessing the Little Children by William Blake (1799, from the Tate Gallery)*

## **1 John 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.



*To ponder*

Our reading today from the first letter to John reminds us that we are beloved children of God. One way we respond to God calling to us in love is through Baptism and affirming those Baptismal vows through Confirmation. Next Sunday we remember the Baptism of Christ and it is an opportunity for us to remember and renew our Baptismal vows.

What does being a beloved child of God mean for you? Take some time today to consider what it means to be known for who you are right now, beloved as one fearfully and wonderfully made.

*Holy Baptisme (II) by George Herbert (1633)*

Since, Lord, to thee  
A narrow way and little gate  
Is all the passage, on my infancie  
Thou didst lay hold, and antedate  
My faith in me.

O let me still  
Write thee great God, and me a childe;  
Let me be soft and supple to thy will,  
Small to myself, to others milde,  
Behither ill.

Although by stealth  
My flesh get on; yet let her sister  
My soul bid nothing, but preserve her wealth.  
The growth of flesh is but a blister;  
Childhood is health.

*To listen*

Amidst us Our Beloved Stands by Greg Kay (from the Eucharist of Beulah and Pearl)  
<https://open.spotify.com/track/28i1XGanGLxRHwxxNXSaa3?si=27af6a415e874be7>

Love Divine by Howard Goodall (performed by the National Youth Choir of Scotland and NYCOS Training Choir) <https://youtu.be/aTpKuWJbe-k>

