

In the beginning was the Word...

An Advent & Christmas Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney



Witness

Wednesday 3rd January 2024



John the Baptist Identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=29353> [retrieved December 22, 2023]. Original source: image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson.

Scripture: John 1:29-31

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.'

I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

To reflect

John the Baptist in today’s Gospel testifies, bears witness to who Jesus is – the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sin of the world. John bears witness that Jesus is the Son of God. How do you bear witness to God in your life? Perhaps in action, in service to others, in words or teaching. There are many different ways to spreading the Good News of Jesus in the world, some explicitly and others implicitly, using the different gifts and skills each of us have. How might you be challenged to witness to God in the world this year?

Blessed are you who bear the light by Jan Richardson

Blessed are you

who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you

in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

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To Listen

Agnus Dei from the St Anne’s Mass by James MacMillan, one version is by Capella Nova
<https://open.spotify.com/track/0pWNvNQDTARfjTQa9SG9ZZ?si=589d5e0708d2493e>

...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.