

Calvary Church, Brighton, UK



*An independent Bible-teaching baptist church
congregation of 40-50 people based on the south coast of England*

Today 28th November the service is led by Philip Wells
(full-time pastor/elder)

Subject – **What is a baptist church?**

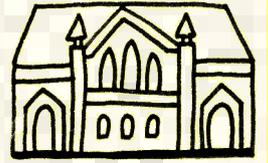
*The local virus infection rate is high (1 in 50) so we ask you to respect the **space in the back hall** as Covid-secure by kindly retaining face-coverings while moving and while singing in back hall. Be prepared for updates in the changing situation.*

This afternoon – 3:45-6 pm – Special Tea

This evening – 18:30 at church – discussion on the morning's teaching +
Zoom “overspill”

*1st December 19:45 Prayer & share groups – Zoom only
Members – voting on Plan D – to Ruth, by 12th December please.*

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Welcome

Song: 341 You are the king of glory

Song: 305 Jesus shall take the highest honour

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

Bible reading: Acts 22:1-22

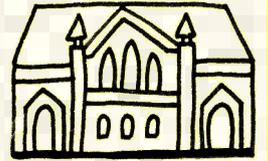
For the children - words and signs

Song: 614 What a friend we have in Jesus

Talk – *What is a baptist church?*

Song: 1234 Come praise and glorify our God

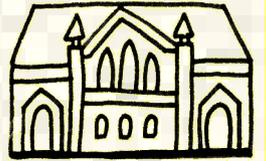
Closing prayer



341: You are the King of Glory

*You are the king of glory
you are the Prince of peace,
you are the Lord of heaven and earth,
you're the sun of righteousness.*

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*Angels bow down before you,
worship and adore, for
you have the words of eternal life,
you are Jesus Christ the Lord.*

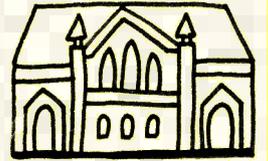
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*Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna to the King of kings!
Glory in the highest heaven,
for Jesus the Messiah reigns.*

Author: Mavis Ford

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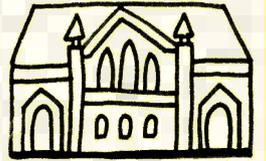
305: Jesus shall take the highest honour

Jesus shall take the highest honour.

Jesus shall take the highest praise.

*Let all earth join heaven in exalting
the name which is above all other names.*

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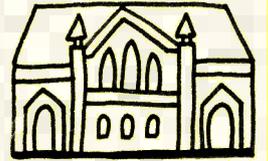
*Let's bow the knee in humble adoration,
for at his name every knee must bow.*

Let every tongue confess

he is Christ, God's only Son:

Sovereign Lord, we give you glory now.

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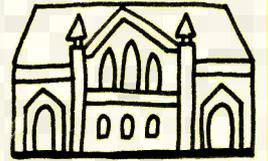


*For all honour and blessing and power
belong to you, belong to you.
All honour and blessing and power
belong to you, belong to you,
Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God.*

Author: Chris A Bowater

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Song: 305 Jesus shall take the highest honour

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

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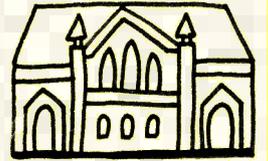
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Closing prayer

The Lord's Prayer



Our Father in heaven
- hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

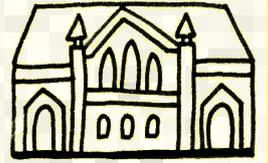
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil.

For yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

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Welcome

Song: 341 You are the king of glory x2

Song: 305 Jesus shall take the highest honour x2

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

Bible reading: Acts 22:1-22

For the children - words and signs

Song: 614 What a friend we have in Jesus

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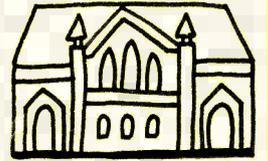
Song: 1234 Come praise and glorify our God

Closing prayer

Words and signs and acts

- “you’re fired”
 - Carrying box
- “I do”
 - Wearing wedding band/ring
- [First finger held upwards]
 - “ ”
- I solemnly swear + hand
- Christian faith + baptism
 - Inward change + outward action
 - “baptism saves” / I am baptised = I am a Christian
 - We hope and pray that you will grow up to give your life totally to Jesus Christ and show it in baptism

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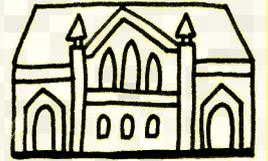
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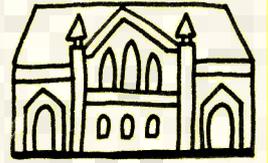
Closing prayer



614: What a friend we have in Jesus

*1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear;
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

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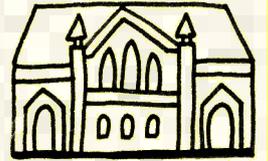
*2. Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?*

*We should never be discouraged,
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?*

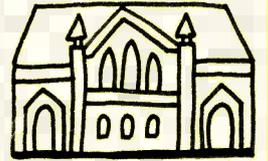
*Jesus knows our every weakness-
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

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*3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
burdened with a load of care?
Jesus is our mighty Saviour,
he will listen to our prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
find your strength and comfort there.*

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Q; different churches?

All sorts of different churches ...

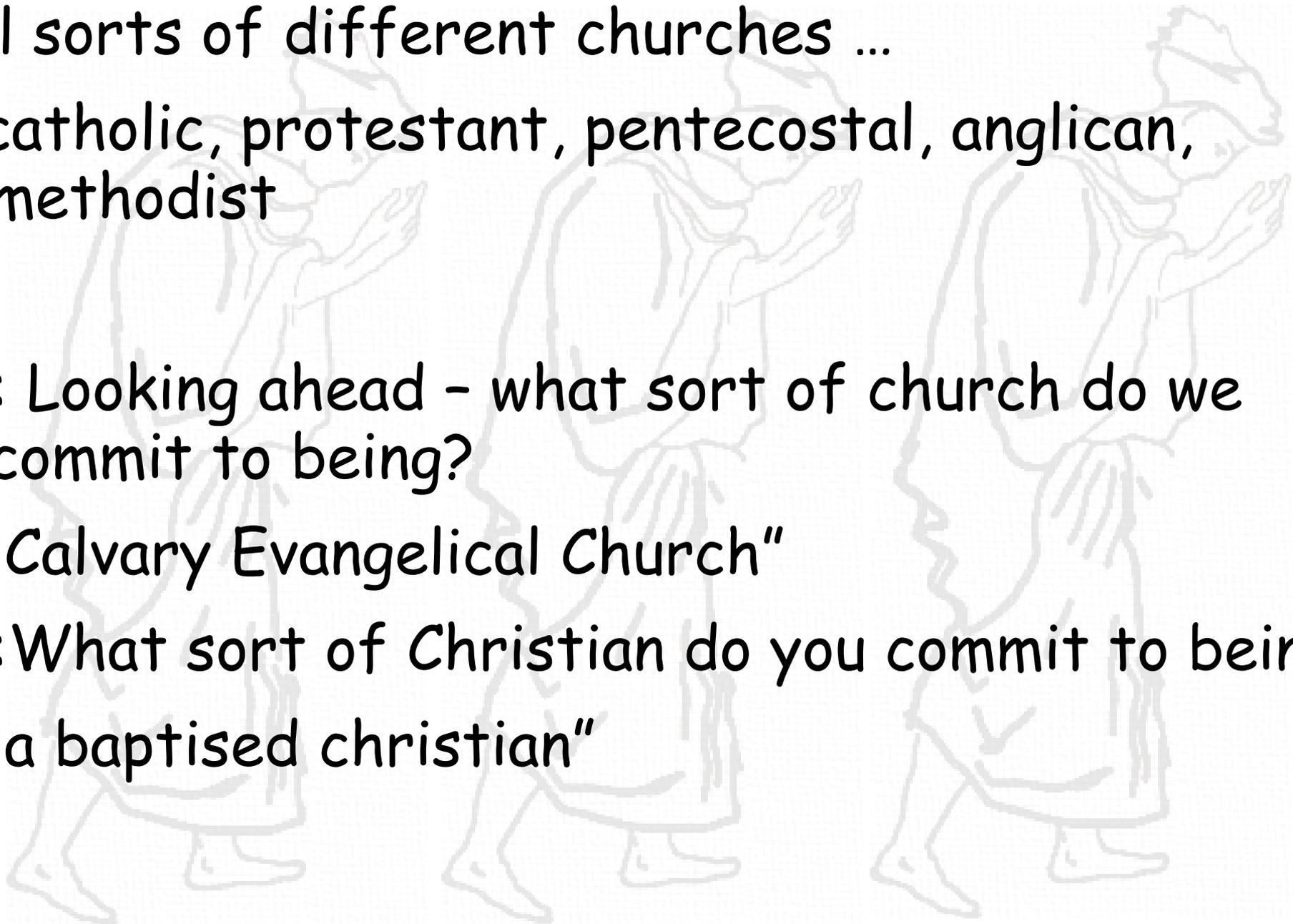
- catholic, protestant, pentecostal, anglican, methodist

Q: Looking ahead - what sort of church do we commit to being?

- "Calvary Evangelical Church"

Q: What sort of Christian do you commit to being?

- "a baptised christian"



Q: different churches?

Evangelical

- Evangel // gospel
- Gospel = good news
- Christian good news
- Jesus Christ
 - In his death for sins according to the Scriptures
 - That he was buried
 - That he rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures
- About Jesus
- Deal with sin
- As a saving action of God
- Completely depends on the Scriptures

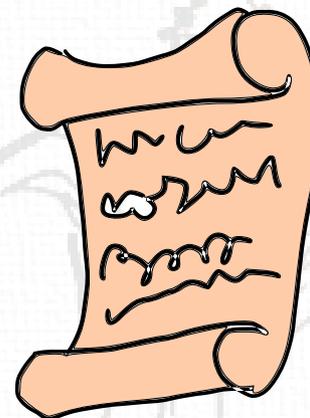
Q: different churches?

Evangelical

- Evangel // gospel
- Gospel = good news

Scriptures

- The gospel totally intertwined with the word of God
- (a) Jesus himself as he reveals himself
 - = the gospels
- (b) the commissioned representatives, the apostles
 - = the N.T.
- (c) the Hebrew Scriptures - fulfilled!
- = the Bible
- What the Bible says, God says.
- Wesley: give me that book!



Q; different churches?

Evangelical

- Evangel // gospel
- Gospel = good news

"Reformed" = radical true gospel

- Sin = *totally bad (sinner is stuck)*
- Salvation by grace = *totally by grace (God saves)*
- Christ on the cross = *effectively saves (cross achieves salvation)*
- Future = *totally secure*
 - *Christ will raise on the last day*
- ==> *"reformed teaching/understanding"*
- ==> *! Bible teaching*
- ==> *greatly strengthening and awe inspiring!*

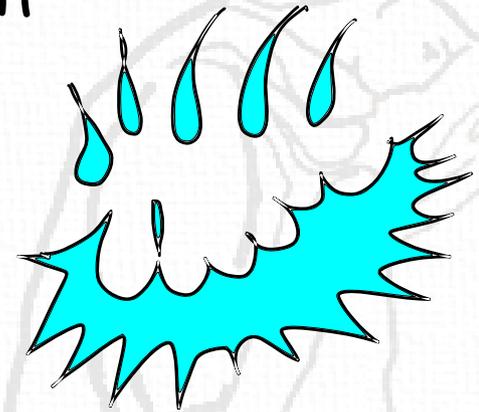
Q: different churches?

Calvary Evangelical Church

- Evangelical Reformed Baptist church
- What about the “baptist” bit?

N.B. the order

- Gospel #1
- Reformed #2
- Baptist #3
 - True, commanded, but not everything is of the same importance.
 - “horses for courses” - how much agreement is appropriate
 - To accept as Christian
 - i.e. fellow Christians do differ over “reformed” e.g John Wesley
 - To work together and support
 - e.g. Sussex Gospel Partnership- fellow Reformed Christians do differ over “baptism”

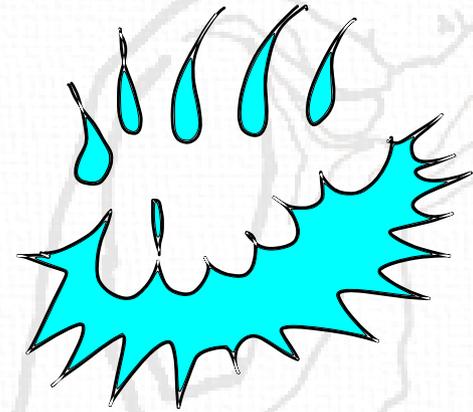


Q: Baptism

1. Christ and baptism (longest section)
2. christians and baptism
3. church and baptism

Baptism is a big subject

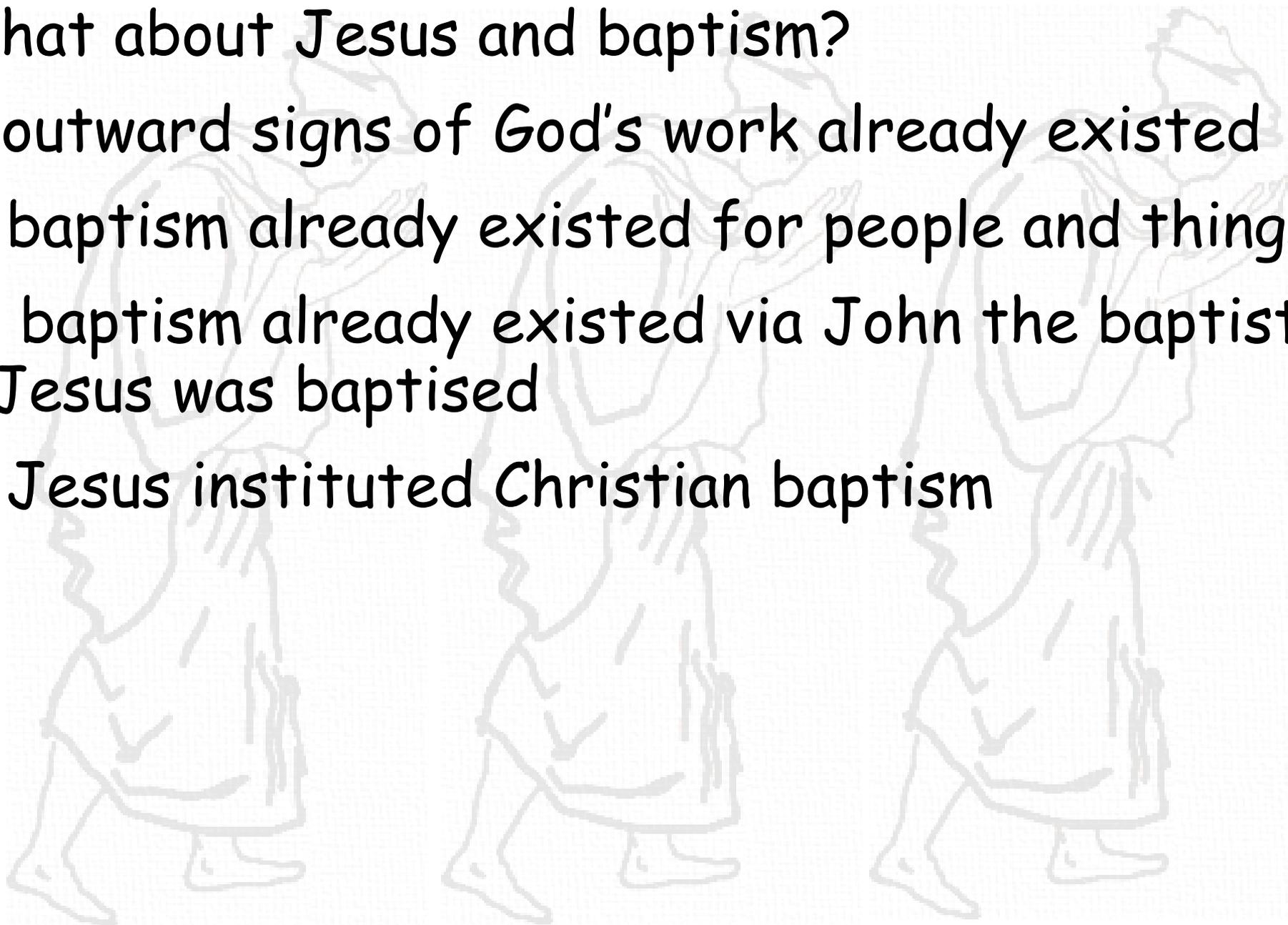
- Polyvalent = many layers of meanings
- Historically a big division
 - Baptism of babies (paedo-baptism)
 - Most Christians in reformed churches follow infant baptism (!)
 - Baptism of believers (including believing children)
 - Credo-baptism
 - Anabaptist = again-baptism
- So please let's work hard together on this today!



1. Christ and baptism

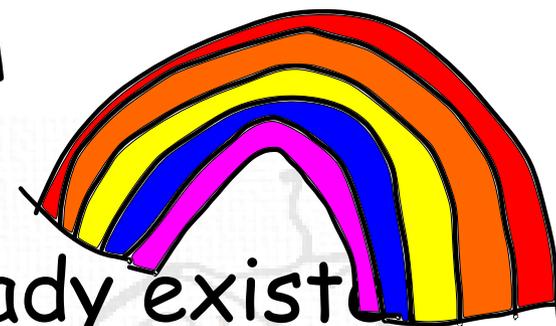
What about Jesus and baptism?

- a. outward signs of God's work already existed
- b. baptism already existed for people and things
- c. baptism already existed via John the baptist, Jesus was baptised
- d. Jesus instituted Christian baptism



1. Christ and baptism

What about Jesus and baptism?



a. outward signs of God's work already exist

Gen 1:14 - signs to mark the seasons/times/festivals

- i.e. that reminds me ... it's harvest, work-time, rest-time, spring-time

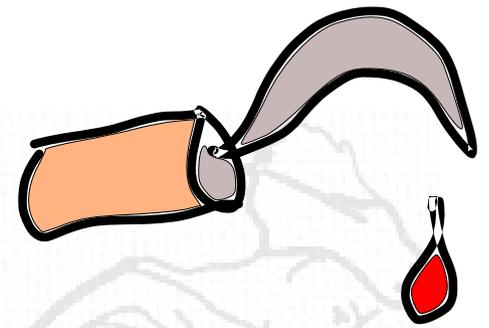
Gen 9:13 - the rainbow ... sign of covenant ... never again water to destroy all life

- This reminds God ... or so we are to understand when we wonder whether God has forgotten

1. Christ and baptism

What about Jesus and baptism?

- signs already existed ...



Gen 17:11 - circumcision - sign of covenant with Abraham

- Promise to Abraham (relationship in words - with promises and responses v.4,7,11,14)
- Of fruitful posterity - nations, land, circumcised descendants ...
- v.12 "eight days old" - this is sign of *a given situation*, not a sign of something within the person signed.
- ==> *although signs are outward, and are not the main thing, they are a vital part of God's way of doing things - here God reassuring people of his promises = given*

1. Christ and baptism

What about Jesus and baptism?

b. baptism already existed for people and things

Mark 7:4 "tradition of elders - baptise [their hands] ... baptism of cups, pitchers, kettles"

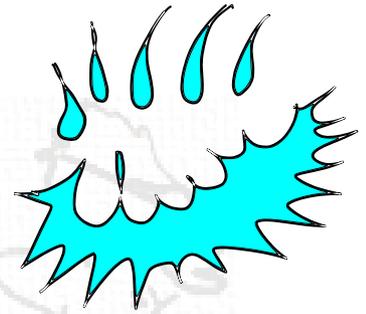
==> idea of dirty things being washed clean from dirt



1. Christ and baptism

What about Jesus and baptism?

c. baptism already existed via John the baptist



Luke 3:3 "*John ... preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins ...*"

- Voluntary: demonstrating outwardly something inside the person being baptised (not like circumcision)
- Washing away dirt (*sin*)
- Turning to the Lord (*in readiness* for something coming)
- Seeking forgiveness (*without* knowing how that can happen)
- Jesus himself was baptised in this way
- "BUT" = inadequacy ...(see later)

=> if Jesus was baptised with John's baptism, there should not be a problem with Christians being baptised with Christian baptism

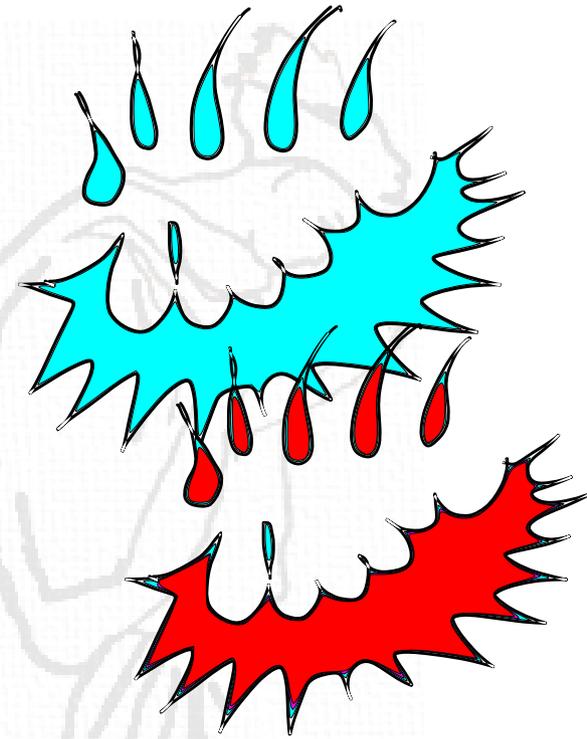
1. Christ and baptism

What about Jesus and baptism?

c. baptism already existed via John the baptist

Luke 3:3 *"John ... preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins ..."*

- "BUT" = inadequacy
- Comparison with something more deep and inward
- John 1:32 *"sent me to baptise with water told me, the one on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit ... the Son of God"*
- Acts 19:4 *"John's baptism was ... → [looking forward] believe in Jesus"*
Christian baptism = Holy Spirit life.



1. Christ and baptism

What about Jesus and baptism?

d. Jesus himself instituted baptism for his disciples

Matt 28:19

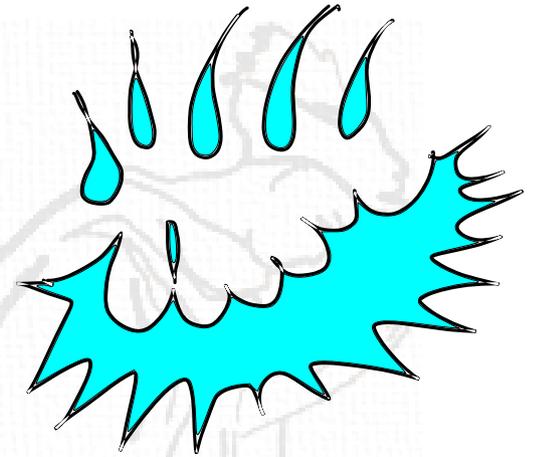
"having gone, make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age"

==> disciples are baptised = normal

==> baptism of the Christ is Trinitarian baptism

==> goes along with his teaching and obedience

==> Jesus said it!



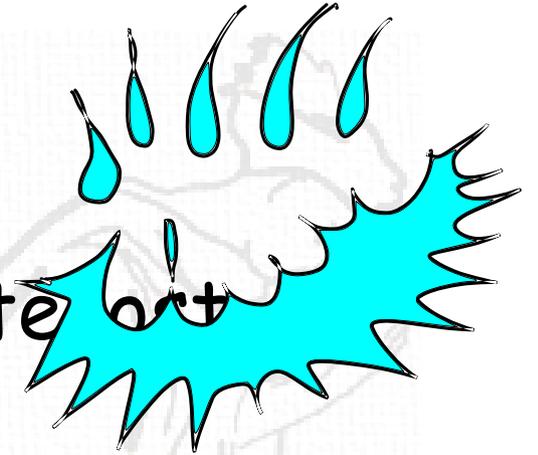
2. Christians and baptism

The thief on the cross

- Was not baptised!

Those who believed on the day of Pentecost

- Were baptised
- *"Repent and be baptised every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you .. children ... all afar off ... all the Lord our God will call"*
- Sign of
 - Believing in Christ - repenting faith
 - Washing - in Christ sins ... washed away
 - Belonging in Christ - to him and his people



2. Christians and baptism

The thief on the cross

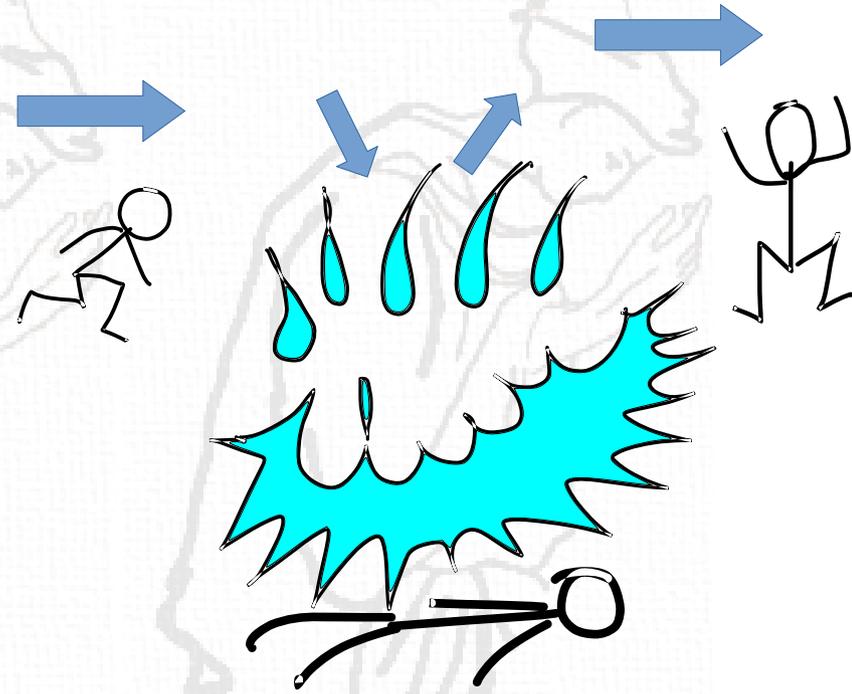
- Was not baptised!

Those who believed on the day of Pentecost

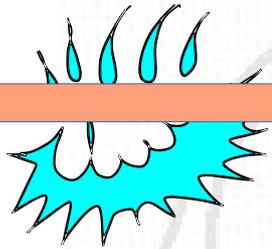
- Were baptised!

Every Christian:

- Romans 6: *"we were buried with [Christ] through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life"*
- ==> understanding who God says we are, and what Christ has done for us, and how we are to live

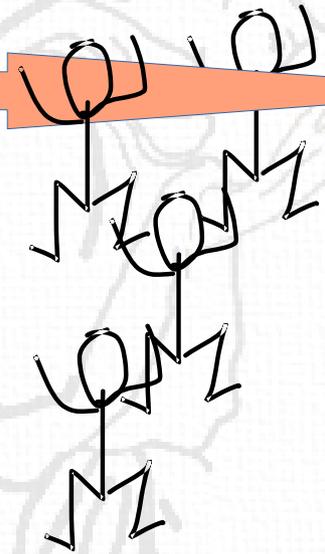


3. Church and baptism



Church is the community of Jesus Christ
Church is the community of those who have
been baptised with Christian baptism

- ==> all have professed Christ in the appointed way - to people, to God
 - "I'm in"
- ==> all have the reassuring sign of Christ given by God to them
 - "you are mine! - I am with you, all the benefits of Christ are yours"
- ==> all belong together,
 - "we belong to each other"
 - Church isn't "them" it's "us"
- We passed through the same waters and we are headed to the same home in heaven!



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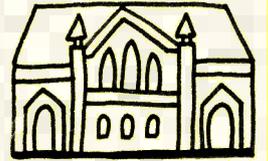
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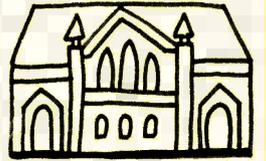
Closing prayer



1234: Come praise and glorify our God

*1. Come praise and glorify our God,
the Father of our Lord;
in Christ he has in heavenly realms
his blessings on us poured.
For pure and blameless in his sight
he destined us to be,
and now we've been adopted through
his Son eternally.*

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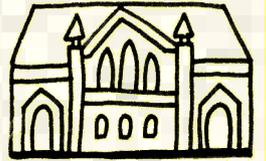
*To the praise of your glory,
to the praise of your mercy and grace;
to the praise of your glory:
you are the God who saves.*

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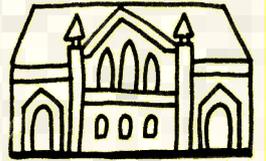
*2. Come praise and glorify our God,
who gives his grace in Christ;
in him our sins are washed away,
redeemed through sacrifice.
In him God has made known to us
the mystery of his will:
that Christ should be the head of all,
his purpose to fulfil.*

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to the praise of your glory:
you are the God who saves.*

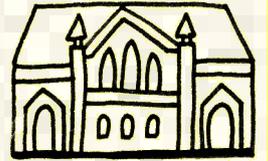
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*3. Come praise and glorify our God,
for we've believed the Word
and through our faith we have a seal:
the Spirit of the Lord.*

*The Spirit guarantees our hope
until redemption's done,
until we join in endless praise
to God, the Three-in-One.*

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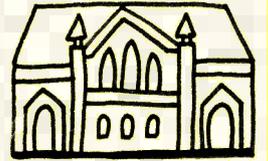


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Author: Bob Kauflin and Tim Chester

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