



And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Own, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3. 22

This Sunday, January 9, 2022, many churches will remember and celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. We will also remember our own baptisms. That can prove challenging for those who were baptized as infants or young children. Those who were baptized as older children, youth, young adults, and adults can physically remember their baptisms. Not so with infants and young adults, so our, mine included as I was baptized as an infant, remembrance needs to take on a different point of view and is one that all baptized Christians can consider.

Perhaps the best way to remember our baptisms is within the remembrance and celebration of Jesus’ baptism, and within the community of faith call the church. So it is that one generation remembers their baptism through the remembrance of the previous generation who were present, and so on. It is a beautiful thought that the saints of light, who have gone before us into the Church Triumphant surrounded us when we were baptized regardless our age at baptism. And so it is that God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit remembers our baptism.

And why is this important at all? Well, I remember years ago when a pastor friend and mentor of mine consecrated Holy Communion. As he came the place of inviting everyone to the table he said, “The words we most want to hear in all the world are, ‘I forgive you, I love you, come to supper.’” And that is what I hear in the story of the baptism of Jesus. A voice, whom we would call God, says to Jesus, “You are my Own, my Beloved, with you I am well pleased.” And the good news for us is that those same words are said when we are baptized, “You, (put your name here), are my own, my beloved, with you, (put your name here), I am well pleased.” Could there be any better words for us to hear?

If you want a mantra, a phrase to repeat to yourself, I encourage you to consider these words of God to Jesus and to you and me. Or even better, just light a candle and sit for a while in the presence of God and listen for God to speak those words to you. Then rise from your chair knowing you belong to God, you are God’s own, God’s beloved.

Holy One, thank you for naming me, claiming me, and loving me. In these days of great challenges, help me to listen for your voice reminding me that I am beloved. Amen.

