



**PROJECT RECONNECT**

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**Liturgical Date: Year A, Baptism of Jesus, 8th January 2023**

**Presenter**                      **Rev Dr Mel Macarthur**

**Focus readings**                **Matthew 3: 13-17 and Matthew 4: 1-11**

**Message**                      13 minutes 60 seconds                      "Of Rites of Passage"

### **Discussion Starters**

- 1 The presenter mentioned the "core business" of the church. What do you understand that to be?
- 2 The presenter referred to most people seeking spiritual knowledge outside the church. Do you agree / disagree? Why have you answered in this way?
- 3 How might your church create a rite of passage to the Christian life for spiritual seekers? What might be the form and content of that rite of passage.
- 4

### **Lectionary readings for the day**

**Isaiah 42 :1-9** God anoints God's servant, a light to the nations, with the spirit to do justice.

**Psalms 29** This psalm speaks about and depicts "the Lord's voice" as powerful and majestic.

**Acts 10: 34-43** Peter says that he and others are witnesses to the message of Jesus Christ, about who Christ is and what Christ has done after his baptism by John.

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**All Age Message:** Maria Williams                      "Jesus' Baptism"

**Length** 5 minutes 60 seconds

### **Precis of AAM**

John came as the first prophet after Malachi. John came to tell people they needed to get things right and change their hearts and the way they lived. He was known as the Baptist because he believed they all needed to be submerged in the river as it had a special purpose and would fulfill what God required. Jesus was the anointed one of God to follow John and it was important for him to be baptised by John, then receive God's anointing to do his own work of bringing people into the kingdom.

**Resources:** *Uniting in Worship (Blue Book)*.    **Psalm 29, pages 266-267**

### **Rev Dr Mel Macarthur**

I am passionate about walking in remote areas; undertaking long distance pilgrimages by foot and continuing tertiary education.