

DCPC This Sunday
January 13, 201
Baptism of the Lord

“The Ecology of Baptism”

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

For as long as humans have prayed, they have probably prayed at water places. Water often moves us to wonder, joy, terror or peace, and many times, water—whether it's the awesome power of ocean waves, the cold upwelling waters of a spring, a small, still pond, the sound of a mountain stream flowing over rocks, deep, slow rivers with creatures rippling the surface, crashing waterfalls, nourishing rain on parched land, the seemingly infinite expanse of the sea or hot springs rising mysteriously from the earth—moves us to prayer. In fact, the Christian heritage of praying next to water is older than Christianity itself, being deeply influenced by our Jewish heritage. This is important to understand because baptism into Christ has always been an entrance into water. In this age of ecological emergency, the images of water that saturate our baptismal theology and prayers are as needed and relevant as ever before.