

Today is the feast of the Baptism of Jesus – a feast that publicly proclaims Jesus as the long awaited Messiah.

At Jesus' baptism the heavens opened and a voice proclaimed, "This is my beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We discover who Jesus is and what he came to do.

Jesus came to reveal God's love to us, for us and to teach us how to be in right relationship with one another.

At our baptism we celebrate God's heart opening with love for us. It is as if God whispers to each of us: You are my beloved. With you I am well pleased...

Don't we long to hear those words from others? Don't our hearts open in love when we gaze upon a loved one, a sleeping child, a cherished friend? Hasn't someone looked at us that way?

Then, don't we feel closer, more loving, more connected? Don't we want to share that love with others?

Today, let us celebrate our baptism in Jesus. Let us see ourselves as God's Beloved.

May that love heal our doubts and our pain and our divisions. Let us look upon others with that same tenderness and love that God looks upon us!