

Lenten wall panel 1, Golden Grove, SA



The beginning of Jesus' Ministry — Baptism

References: Matt 3:13–17, Mark 1:9–11, Luke 3:21–22

This piece depicts the public event that marked the official beginning of Jesus' saving ministry. We participate in Jesus' saving ministry through our baptism. Our baptism is the beginning of our new, eternal life, a life of joy in the kindness and love of Christ (Tit 3:4–7)

- A droplet of water coming from heaven symbolises our 'sprinkling' type baptism. Christ's picture on the droplet reminds us that Christ's name and his saving work become ours through the waters of baptism. Jesus opened heaven, and he is now the way for us to enter (Acts 4:12). The blessings of baptism are a gift from heaven.
- A dove represents the Holy Spirit, partly hidden but intimately involved. The Spirit is the gift of God who secretly enters our hearts to stay, as the official seal or guarantee of our adoption into God's family (2 Cor 1:12).
- The globe symbolises the people to whom God is speaking and reminds us of our responsibilities to our neighbours because God wants all people to be saved (Acts 1:8).

The words, 'This is my Son', and 'Listen to him', are words of God the Father. 'This is my Son' was uttered at Jesus' baptism, and again at his transfiguration, where God added the command, 'Listen to him' (Matt 17:5). They are included to encourage a response because, 'Faith comes through hearing' (Rom 10:17).

The words are in the 'atmosphere' surrounding the world to show that God's will for salvation echoes around the world, for all people, of all time.

The final point, conveyed especially in the line drawing and the colours chosen, is that Jesus did not come as a reluctant Saviour. He came joyfully (Heb 12:2).

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