

Baptism of Christ

Agape Service

Welcome & Introduction

Officiant 1 Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

Officiant 1 Welcome to this agape meal, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's love revealed for our world by our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

All **We come to share our food, our lives and God's grace.**

Officiant 1 O Lord, open our lips.

All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Prayers of Penitence

Officiant 2 The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

(Titus 2.11-14)

Officiant 2 Lord Jesus, God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant 2 May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant 2 You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant 2 Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect

Officiant 1 Heavenly Father,
All **at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

Genesis 1: 1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29: 1-8

Officiant I Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Officiant I The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

All **The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

Officiant I The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

All **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Officiant I The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

All **The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'**

Officiant I The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

All **The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant I Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The Lord shall give his people
the blessing of peace.**

*A cantor will now sing In the bleak midwinter (Words: Christina Rossetti; music Gustav Holst)
Sung by Lara Hobden (Head girl chorister) with Mark Swinton on the organ*

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
FROSTY WIND MADE MOAN;
EARTH STOOD HARD AS IRON,
WATER LIKE A STONE;
SNOW HAD FALLEN, SNOW ON SNOW,
SNOW ON SNOW,
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
LONG AGO.

ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS
MAY HAVE GATHERED THERE,
CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
THRONGED THE AIR;
BUT ONLY HIS MOTHER
IN HER MAIDEN BLISS
WORSHIPPED THE BELOVED
WITH A KISS.

OUR GOD, HEAVEN CANNOT HOLD HIM
NOR EARTH SUSTAIN,
HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL FLEE AWAY
WHEN HE COMES TO REIGN:
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
A STABLE-PLACE SUFFICED
THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY —
JESUS CHRIST.

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM,
POOR AS I AM? —
IF I WERE A SHEPHERD
I WOULD BRING A LAMB;
IF I WERE A WISE MAN
I WOULD DO MY PART, —
YET WHAT I CAN I GIVE HIM, —
GIVE MY HEART.

ENOUGH FOR HIM, WHOM CHERUBIM
WORSHIP NIGHT AND DAY,
A BREASTFUL OF MILK
AND A MANGERFUL OF HAY;
ENOUGH FOR HIM, WHOM ANGELS
FALL DOWN BEFORE,
THE OX AND ASS AND CAMEL
WHICH ADORE.

Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Sermon

A short address by The Revd Alycia Timmis, Curate at St Mary's

Intercession

Officiant 1 In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

This response is used:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son

our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

AGAPE

Officiant 2 In this Agape for Epiphany we celebrate that Jesus is God's incarnate Word who calls us to proclaim the good news of God's grace and glory. Therefore we acknowledge these symbols to remind us of Christ's promises to us:

A candle, to remind us of Jesus' words, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life". (John 8: 12)

Some food that reminds us of God's proclamation at Jesus' baptism when the heavens were torn apart and the Spirit descended like a dove: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' (Mark 1: 10-11)

A cup of wine or grape juice to remind us Jesus' proclaimed, "I am the true vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit". (John 15: 5)

Let us pray:

Living and Risen Christ, we welcome your presence with us. May the food, drink and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places. **Amen.**

Sharing of Food and Drink

A portion of our food is eaten, followed by the sharing of the cup. If there are others present in your 'bubble' they can be passed from person to person, during which a cantor will sing *Litany to the Holy Spirit* (Words: Robert Herrick; Music: Peter Hurford arr. Oliver Hancock). Sung by girl choristers with Oliver Hancock on the piano

THREE KINGS FROM PERSIAN LANDS AFAR
OFFER THY HEART TO THE INFANT KING.
IN THE HOUR OF MY DISTRESS,
WHEN TEMPTATIONS ME OPPRESS,
AND WHEN I MY SINS CONFESS,
 SWEET SPIRIT, COMFORT ME!

WHEN I LIE WITHIN MY BED,
SICK IN HEART AND SICK IN HEAD,
AND WITH DOUBTS DISCOMFORTED,
 SWEET SPIRIT, COMFORT ME!

WHEN THE HOUSE DOTH SIGH AND WEEP,
AND THE WORLD IS DROWN'D IN SLEEP,
YET MINE EYES THE WATCH DO KEEP,
 SWEET SPIRIT, COMFORT ME!

Conclusion

Officiant 2 As our Saviour has taught his followers, so we pray
All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done;
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation;
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn *Sung by our lockdown choir with Dave Clark on the piano*
**We have a gospel to proclaim
 Good news for men in all the earth;
 The gospel of a Saviour's name:
 We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved His life He gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.**

**Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

Words: Edward Burns; Tune: Fulda

Presentation to Alycia

from St Mary's Collegiate Parish Church, Warwick

Blessing

Officiant 2 Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Officiant 2 Live in the peace of the coming light of Christ!

All **Thanks be to God!**

Organ Voluntary

CHRIST UNSER HERR ZUM JORDAN KAM (BWV 684 J S BACH)

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