

St Matthew's – Morning Praise & Baptism

10.45am Sunday 28th November 2021

Theme: Jesus above and before all things

Welcome to St. Matthew's. Please join us for tea or coffee after this service. The service will last about an hour. A special welcome to the family and friends of Joey-Ray who will be baptised during the service. Please place any financial gifts in the collection box at the back, use the contactless machine or donate via the church website.

Welcome and Notices

Opening words

Almighty God,
as we begin this season of Advent
remind us again that in the midst of our darkness
you are bringing us peace,
to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives.
Turn our hearts again toward you.
Make us ready to receive your Son our Saviour.
Slow our pace,
and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits.
Amen.



Advent candle prayer (The Patriarchs)

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.
Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever.
Amen.



Song:

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?



Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Baptism

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

Amen.



Presentation of Candidate

[The minister addresses the congregation]

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome this child and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents and Godparents, the Church receives this child with joy. Today we are trusting God for his growth in faith. Will you pray for him, draw him by your example into the community of faith and walk with him in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents and Godparents, in baptism this child begins his journey in faith. You speak for him today. Will you care for him, and help him to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

[Water is poured into the font]

Prayer over the water

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit, may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Decision

Parents and Godparents, in baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask: Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the cross

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

[The sign of the cross is made on the candidate's forehead]

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

[The congregation stand]

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the
people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

[The congregation sit]

Baptism

[Name], I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

Giving of candle

Receive this light. This is to show you have passed out of darkness into light. God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
We welcome you into the fellowship of faith.
We are children of the same heavenly Father.
We welcome you!

Sung Worship

(the children leave for their groups)



Before the throne of God above

I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

The greatest day in history

Death is beaten You have rescued me
Sing it out Jesus is alive
The empty cross the empty grave
Life eternal You have won the day
Shout it out Jesus is alive, He's alive



And oh happy day happy day
You washed my sin away
Oh happy day happy day
I'll never be the same
Forever I am changed

When I stand in that place
Free at last meeting face to face
I am Yours Jesus You are mine
Endless joy perfect peace
Earthly pain finally will cease
Celebrate Jesus is alive, He's alive

Bridge

Oh what a glorious day
What a glorious way
That You have saved me
And oh what a glorious day
What a glorious name

Saying Sorry

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel
the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people new life in the water
of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us,
nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers (*Judith Ridgway*)

[These responses may be used]

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

[And at the end]

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**



Creedal song

**Lord I lift your name on high
Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you're in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us.**

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high.

1st Bible Reading (*Phil Hodgkinson*)

- John 1:1-15 p.1063



1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, 'This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me."')

[At the end]

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

2nd Bible Reading (*Sue Webster*)

- Colossians 1:15-20 p.1182



¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

[At the end]

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon (*Samantha Fawkes*)



Responsory (G40)

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

When the time had fully come
you sent the Sun of Righteousness.

In him the fullness of your glory dwells.

To you be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

(Prayer ministry is available in the side chapel)

Song

Be Thou, my vision

O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light



Riches I heed not
Nor man's empty praise
Thou my inheritance
Now and always
Thou and Thou only
First in my heart
High King of heaven
My treasure Thou art

High King of heaven
After victory won
May I reach heav'n's joys
O bright heaven's Son
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O Ruler of all

Offering Prayer

**God of all goodness and grace,
receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life
may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Blessing

To a troubled world
peace from Christ.

To a searching world
love from Christ.

To a waiting world
hope from Christ.

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

***St Matthew's Church: Worshipping God; Equipping his people;
Growing his kingdom; Serving Walsall***

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