

St Matthew's – Morning Praise & Baptism

10.45am Sunday 24th November 2024

Service Leader: Gary Killeen

Preacher: Rev Jim Trood

Theme: Revelation: Christ the King

Welcome to St Matthew's. Please join us for tea or coffee after this service. Children leave for Children's Church after the All Together song, returning at midday.

Please place any financial gifts in the bags which will be passed around during our offertory song. If you prefer you may use the contactless machine at the back of church or donate via the church website.

Welcome & Notices

Opening Words

Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Song



O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your Word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Saying Sorry (Confession)

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.



**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and
said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Forgiveness (Absolution)

The Lord enrich us with his grace,
and nourish us with his blessing;
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;
the Lord accept our prayers,
and absolve us from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.



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 the 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 candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents, the Church receives these candidates with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents, baptism begins a journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their 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 baptised in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptised 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, 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 a 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!

All Together Song



I am a city on a hill

I am a light in the darkness

Jesus living in me can change the world

I am a city on a hill

I am a light in the darkness

Jesus living in me can change the world

Chorus

Let my light shine let my light shine

Let my light shine

Let my light shine let my light shine

Let my light shine

If God is for me who can stand against me

Let my light shine let my light shine

Let my light shine

If God is for me who can stand against me

Let my light shine let my light shine

Let my light shine

We are a city on a hill

We are a light in the darkness

Jesus living in us can change the world

We are a city on a hill

We are a light in the darkness

Jesus living in us can change the world

Chorus

Let your light shine let your light shine

Let your light shine

Let it shine

Let your light shine let your light shine

Let your light shine

If God is for us who can stand against us

Let your light shine let your light shine

Let your light shine

If God is for us who can stand against us

Let your light shine let your light shine

Let your light shine

Children leave for their groups.

Song



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

Intercessions (Jimm Rennie)

These responses may be used
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.



At the end

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

Collect

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sung Lord's Prayer

Father God in heaven,
Lord most high:
hear your children's prayer,
Lord most high:
hallowed be your name,
Lord most high
O Lord, hear our prayer.



May your kingdom come
here on earth;
may your will be done
here on earth,
as it is in heaven
so on earth
O Lord, hear our prayer.

Give us daily bread
day by day,
and forgive our sins
day by day,
as we too forgive
day by day
O Lord, hear our prayer.

Lead us in your way,
make us strong;
when temptations come
make us strong;
save us from all sin,
keep us strong
O Lord, hear our prayer.

All things come from you,
all are yours
kingdom, glory, power,
all are yours;
take our lives and gifts,
all are yours
O Lord, hear our prayer

1st Bible Reading – Revelation 4: 1-11 (Barbara Parker)



4 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.⁴ Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.⁶ Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

[At the end]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Bible Reading – Revelation 7: 1-17 (Sarah Samuel Augustine)

7 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ ‘Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.’ ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. [12,000 from each tribe]

....

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.’

¹¹ All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

‘Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honour
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!’

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?’

¹⁴ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’

And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

‘they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ “Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,”
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the centre of the throne
will be their shepherd;

“he will lead them to springs of living water.”

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

[at the end]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon (Rev Jim Trood)



Response Worship

(including Offering)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.



Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord,
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide his face
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone
Faultless, I stand before the throne.

Offering Prayer



Closing Words

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
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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