

St Matthew's – Morning Praise & Baptism

10.45am Sunday 26th January 2025

Service Leader: Jeremy Sargent

Preacher: Christine Barkley

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

God in Christ has revealed his glory.
Come let us worship.



From the rising of the sun to its setting
the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.
O praise the name of the Lord!

Song



Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King:
his love endures forever,
For he is good, he is above all things,
his love endures forever,
sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
his love endures forever,
for the life that's been reborn,
his love endures forever,
sing praise, sing praise,
sing praise, sing praise.

For ever, God is faithful,
for ever God is strong,
for ever God is with us,
for ever, for ever.

From the rising to the setting sun,
his love endures forever;
by the grace of God we will carry on,
his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise,
sing praise, sing praise.

Saying Sorry (Confession)

St Paul says
'Be imitators of God;
love as Christ loved;
do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice.'
So let us confess our sins to God,
who forgives us in Christ.



**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Forgiveness (Absolution)

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 these 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



What kind of man is this? Born in Bethlehem
worshipped as a baby, by shepherds and wise men
What kind of man is this? Raised in Nazareth,
the son of a carpenter, yet born of virgin birth.

He's the One,
He's the Christ, the Messiah, Chosen One,
King of all the Earth!
He's the One, He's the Christ, the Messiah,
Son of the Living God!

What kind of man is this? Who taught in Galilee,
stilled the raging storm and calmed the angry sea,
What kind of man is this?
Who healed the blind and lame,
gave hope to the poor, the girl her life again!

What kind of man is this? Who gave His life for me,
was whipped and beaten, then hung upon a tree,
What kind of man is this? Death could not defeat,
risen to the Father's side, nations at His feet.

Bridge
'Who do men say I am?'
Jesus asked one day
Peter spoke, words of faith,
with him now we say...

You're the One,
You're the Christ, the Messiah, Chosen One,
King of all the Earth!
You're the One, You're the Christ, the Messiah,
Son of the Living God!

Children leave for their groups.

Song



Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
Oh, we live for You

Chorus 1

Holy, there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who You are and fill me
With Your heart and lead me
In Your love to those around me

Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

Intercessions (Alyson Green)

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 of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
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.**



Song



The splendour of the King

clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice,
all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice,
and trembles at his voice.

How great is our God
(sing with me)
how great is our God and all will see
how great, how great is our God!

And age to age he stands,
and time is in his hands;
beginning and the end,
beginning and the end.
The Godhead, Three in One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb.

Bridge

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing: How great is our God!

How great is our God!



1st Bible Reading – Psalm 113 (Diane Edlin)

1 Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, you his servants;
praise the name of the Lord.

² Let the name of the Lord be praised,
both now and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

⁴ The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the Lord our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

⁸ he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.

⁹ He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord.

[At the end]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2nd Bible Reading – 3 John 1:1-8 (Patti Lane)

1 The elder,
To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

² Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ³ It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

⁵ Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. ⁶ They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honours God. ⁷ It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. ⁸ We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

[at the end]

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon (Christine Barkley)



Response Worship *(including Offering)*

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

O my soul,

Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before,

O my soul.

I'll worship Your holy name.



The sun comes up it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

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.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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