



# **Baptism**

**With Holy Communion**

**United Benefice of  
Cudham and Downe**

*Please join in with words that are printed in bold*

## **Baptism: the start of a journey**

“Baptism is an opportunity to thank God for the gift of a child. But it also means that the child becomes a member of God’s family, the church, and sets out, with the help of parents and Godparents, to live as a child of God. Baptism is the first step on a journey of faith, a journey that will take a lifetime.

Baptism is one of what the church calls ‘sacraments’. Sacraments use ordinary things as symbols to show that something real is happening spiritually, even though it can't be seen. The symbols of baptism: water, the sign of the cross and a lighted candle, focus on new life, belonging to God and what it means to live in the world as a Christian.

The Bible tells us that Jesus himself was baptised as an adult.

*Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptised him in the river Jordan. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “you are my own dear son, and I am pleased with you”. Mark 1:9-11*

God spoke these words before Jesus had done any miracles or told any parables. These words weren't a reward for the good things Jesus had done, but a starting point for all he would do in his life and ministry. Today, God says to those being baptised, “you are my child, I love you, and I am pleased with you”, and so the journey of a lifetime begins, safe in the love of God, safe in Christ.”

*Rev'd Ally Barrett*

## GATHERING

*Words of welcome and introduction*



The Lord be with you: **and also with you**

Creator God, in you our life begins; Your spirit moved over the waters at creation, and you brought us to birth. Grant that as the waters of baptism break over us, we may be born into a spiritual life with Jesus and grow in faith and love by the grace of your Holy Spirit present with us now and always **Amen**



**HYMN** (*please stand if you are able to*)

### COLLECT

Prayer for the day

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Old or New Testament reading. After which is said*

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

*Gospel reading – please stand if you are able to*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to....

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*At the end of the reading*

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ**



## SERMON



### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

*The candidates are presented to the congregation.*

*If they are old enough to answer for themselves:*

Do you wish to be baptised? **I do**

*Hearing about why today is important for the candidates may follow.*

Jesus said, "let the children come to me. Do not stop them." We thank God for *N* and *N* who have come to be baptised today. Christ loves *them* and welcomes *them* into his Church. So I ask you all:

Will you support *these children* as *they begin their* journey of faith? **We will.**

Will you help *them* to live and grow within God's family? **We will.**

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and godparents, you speak for *N* and *N* today. Will you pray for *them* and help *them* to follow Christ? **We will.**



**THE DECISION** *The minister addresses parents and godparents*  
*The Christ light is lit*

We all wander far from God and lose our way. Jesus comes to find us and welcome us home. In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin? **I do.**

Do you reject evil? **I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord? **I do.**

### **SIGNING OF THE CROSS**

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

*After the minister has made the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, parents and godparents are invited to do the same.*



Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen**



**HYMN** (*please stand if you are able to*)

*During the hymn the candidate, parents and godparents gather around the font, and you are invited to turn round.*

### **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

Praise God who made heaven and earth: **who keeps his promise for ever.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.



*Water is poured into the font*

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptised, 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.**

## BAPTISM

*The minister pours water on each candidate saying:*

*N, I baptize 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**

*Certificates and gifts are presented to the candidates.*



**HYMN** *(please stand if you are able to)*

*During the hymn the candidate, parents and godparents make their way back to their seats.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

*The following response may be used after each prayer:*

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**



*The prayers may end with:*

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



## WELCOME AND PEACE

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: *N and N*, 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.**

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. *All may exchange a sign of peace.*



**HYMN** (*please stand if you are able to*)

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All who are baptised are welcome to receive the bread and the wine at the Lord's table. If you are unsure, please keep your hands by your side so we know to offer a prayer of blessing instead. You will be directed when to come up.*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**



It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**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.**



We break this bread to share in the body of Christ: **though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The giving of Communion – you will be directed when to come up.*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, preserve in your people the new life of baptism; as Christ receives us on earth, so may he guide us through the trials of this world and enfold us in the joy of heaven, where you live and reign, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

## Notices



**HYMN** (please stand if you are able to)

## SENDING OUT

*Candidates and parents are invited to the front. Candidates are given a lighted candle*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life: **Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father**



## Blessing

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



## The dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ: **Thanks be to God**

***We have enjoyed worshipping with you this morning.***

**Copyright acknowledgements:**

Making the most of your child's baptism by Rev'd Ally Barrett, copyright 2016 by SPCK Publishing

Art work by © Ally Barrett ([www.reverendally.org](http://www.reverendally.org)) and used by permission.

Alternative pastoral prayers (London:Canterbury Press, 2012) Rev'd Tess Ward

© The Archbishops Council 2000

© The Archbishops Council 2015