**Celebrating Baptism** ***of* Charlotte Avril Graham**  
***on* 22nd October 2023 10:00 am**

**The Greeting**

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **and also with you.**

**Bidding**

O Lord, open our lips.  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**  
O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**  
Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord’s name be praised.**

**Thanks & Praise 57 - I stand amazed v 1,4,5**

I stand amazed in the presence  
of Jesus the Nazarene,  
and wonder how he could love me,  
a sinner, condemned, unclean.

**Refrain**  
How marvellous! How wonderful!  
and my song shall ever be:  
how marvellous! How wonderful  
is my Saviour’s love for me!

**4** He took my sins and my sorrows,  
he made them his very own;  
he bore the burden to Calvary,  
and suffered and died alone.

**5** When with the ransomed in glory  
his face I at last shall see,  
my joy will be through the ages  
to sing of his love for me.

**Introduction**

**The Presentation**

We welcome this child who comes to be baptized. I invite her sponsors to present her now.  
**We present Charlotte Avril to be baptized.**

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Charlotte Avril for baptism and answer on her behalf?

Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ’s Church?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism this child begins her journey in faith. You speak for her today. By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage her in the life and faith of the Christian community?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

**The Supporters**

You have heard these, our brothers and sisters, express their intention to set an example to Charlotte Avril as they respond to Christ’s call.

Will you support them in this calling?  
**We will support them.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1–7a - we are seated**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 beginning at v 1

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: “Grace and peace to you”.  
2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.  
4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

7 And so you became a model to all the believers.

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

**Thanks & Praise 49 - Hallelu Hallelu**

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah;  
**we’ll praise the Lord!**  
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah;  
**we’ll praise the Lord!**

**We’ll praise the Lord**, hallelujah!  
**We’ll praise the Lord**, hallelujah!  
**We’ll praise the Lord**, hallelujah!  
**EVERYONE** We’ll praise the Lord!

**Matthew 28:16–20**

*The reader says*

This story takes place after Jesus had been raised from the dead.

A reading from Matthew chapter 28, beginning at verse 16

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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

**The Sermon - Model Christian Living**

**I’m gonna jump up and down**

I’m gonna jump up and down,  
I’m gonna spin right around,  
I’m gonna praise your name forever.  
I’m gonna shout out loud,  
I’m gonna deafen the crowd,  
I’m gonna send my praise to heaven.

I will run this race and I will never stop  
I’ll follow Jesus till the day I drop.  
I can do all things through Christ  
who strengthens me.  
When you’ve got such a lot, when you’ve got not a lot, what? Be happy!

**The Decision**

In baptism, God calls us from 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 proud 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 as Saviour? **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.**

**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 our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks that you have called Charlotte Avril to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that she who is to be baptized in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.  
May she die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Faith**

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which Charlotte Avril is to be baptized?  
**I do.**

*The presiding minister addresses the congregation.*  
Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with these sponsors, the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**Hymn 391 - A prayer for Charlotte**

Father, now behold us  
and this child, we pray:  
in your love enfold us,  
wash our sins away.

2 Christ’s eternal blessing  
for this life we claim:  
faith, by ours, professing;  
signed in Jesus’ Name.

3 By the Spirit tended,  
childhood grow to youth;  
from all ill defended,  
full of grace and truth.

4 God of all creation,  
stoop from heaven’s throne,  
and by Christ’s salvation  
make this child your own.

**Baptism with water**

Charlotte Avril, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

God has called you into his Church.  
**We therefore receive and welcome you   
as a member with us of the body of Christ,   
as a child of the one heavenly Father,   
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

**The Signing**

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross. Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.  
**Confess Christ crucified,  
proclaim his resurrection,  
look for his coming in glory.**

**The Prayers**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 80 - Great is thy faithfulness**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,

there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,

as thou hast been, thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,*

*morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*all I have needed thy hand hath provided,*

*great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,

sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**The Dismissal**

You have all received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.  
**Shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.**  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **in the name of Christ. Amen.**