Holy Baptism Sunday 4th February 2024

**The Gathering of God’s People**

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

**Name of all majesty! - Hymn 102**

Name of all majesty,  
fathomless mystery,  
King of the ages  
by angels adored;  
power and authority,  
splendour and dignity,  
bow to his mastery,  
Jesus is Lord!

**2** Child of our destiny,  
God from eternity,  
love of the Father  
on sinners outpoured;  
see now what God has done  
sending his only Son,  
Christ the beloved One,  
Jesus is Lord!

**3** Saviour of Calvary,  
costliest victory,  
darkness defeated  
and Eden restored;  
born as a man to die,  
nailed to a cross on high,  
cold in the grave to lie,  
Jesus is Lord!

**4** Source of all sovereignty,  
light, immortality,  
life everlasting  
and heaven assured;  
so with the ransomed, we  
praise him eternally,  
Christ in his majesty,  
Jesus is Lord!

**Introduction**

**Heavenly Father,**  
**we have sinned against you and against our neighbour**  
**in thought and word and deed,**   
**through negligence, through weakness,** **through our own deliberate fault;**  
**by what we have done**  **and by what we have failed to do.**   
**We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life**  
**to the glory of  your name. Amen.**

**Proclaiming and Receiving the Word**

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.**

**Romans 6.1–4**

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, chapter six beginning at verse 1

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

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

**John 3.1–8**

A reading from the Gospel of John chapter 3 beginning at verse 1

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’  
3 Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’  
4 ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’  
5 Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again.”   
8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’

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

**The Sermon**

**Introduction to the Baptism**

**The Presentation**

**The Decision**

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.  Will you support them in this calling?

**We will support them.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**  
**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?   
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**   
**born of the Virgin Mary,**  
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
**was crucified, died, and was buried;**   
**he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;**  
**he ascended into heaven,**   
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
**and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?   
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
**the holy catholic Church,**  
**the communion of saints,**   
**the forgiveness of sins,**  
**the resurrection of the body,**  
**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Father now behold us - Hymn 391**

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

**The Baptism**

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.**

**Prayer and the Water of Baptism**

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.**

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

**Blessed Assurance - Collection Hymn 562**

Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**2** Perfect submission, perfect delight,   
visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**3** Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,   
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

**Prayers of the People**

**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.**

**Going Out as God’s People**

**Be thou my vision - Hymn 643 verses 1,2,4,5**

**1** Be thou my vision,  
O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me,  
save that thou art;  
thou my best thought  
in the day and the night,  
waking or sleeping,  
thy presence my light.

**2** Be thou my wisdom,  
be thou my true word,  
I ever with thee, and  
thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father,  
and I thy true heir;  
thou in me dwelling,  
and I in thy care.

**4** Riches I heed not, nor  
vain empty praise:  
thou mine inheritance  
through all my days;  
thou, and thou only,  
the first in my heart,  
High King of heaven,  
my treasure thou art!

**5** High King of heaven,  
when the battle is done,  
grant heaven’s joy to me,  
O bright heaven’s sun,  
Christ of my own heart,  
whatever befall,  
still be my vision,  
O Ruler of all.

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