

Advent Sunday – 3rd Dec 2023, Mulbarton Church

Special Prayer for Today

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hail, Thou ever blessed morn!

Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

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See the gentle Lamb of God appear
Promised from eternal years.
And the pure hearts will see God
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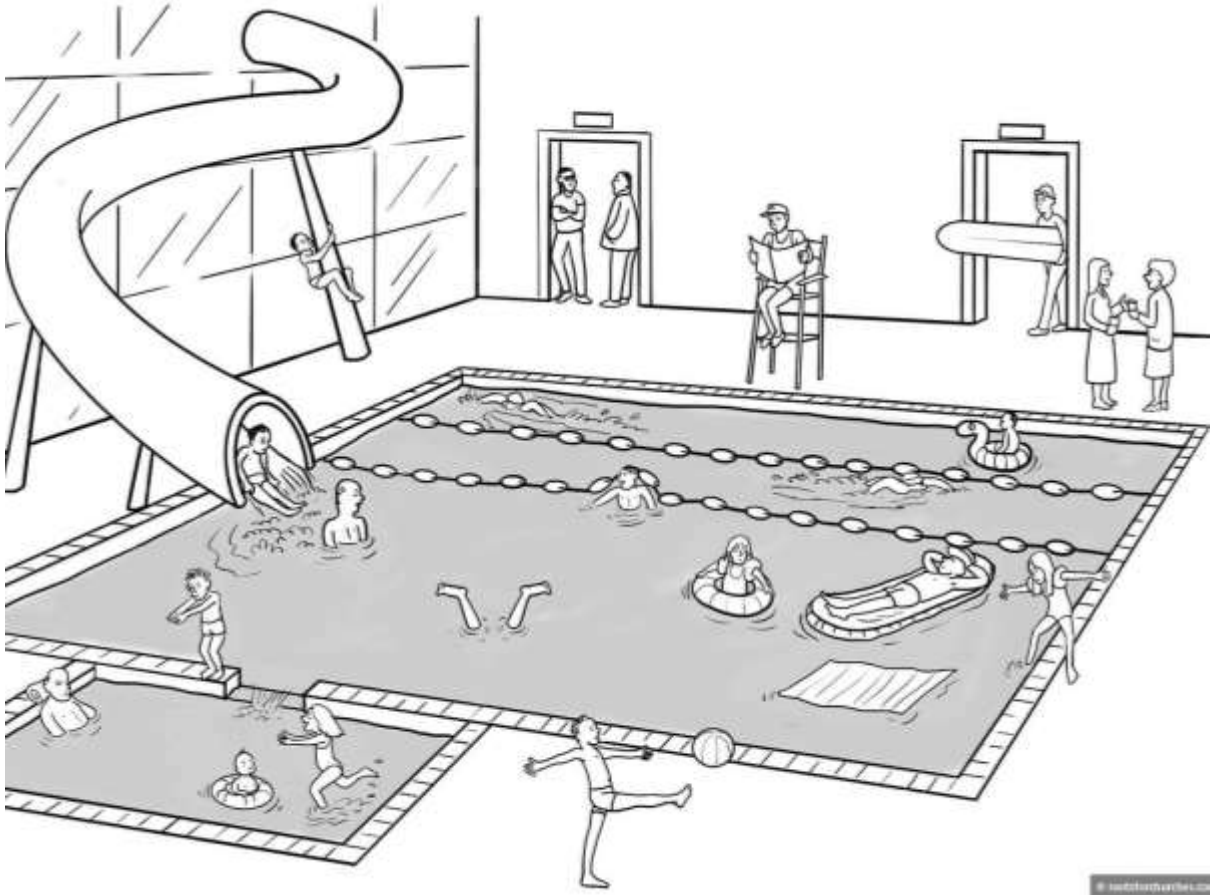
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Angels singing “peace on Earth”
Telling of the Saviour’s birth.
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Telling of the Saviour’s birth.
And the pure hearts will see God.
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Stay Alert!



- In this scene, who is alert and who is not?
- What does it mean to keep alert for Jesus/God?
- What do, or should, you do to make sure you stay focused?

(Sorry Prayers) Confession:

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us:

All: save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:
All: save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and say and think;
Father, forgive us:
All: save us and help us.

(Affirmation of our forgiveness) Absolution:

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Anyone for Chocolate?

Give everyone a piece of chocolate and ask them to eat it quickly. Ask for feedback – what was it like? Then give them a second piece, asking them this time, not to chew it but to simply allow it to melt in their mouths. What was that like? Which was the better experience? Which offered the most flavour? What might we learn or take from this?

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, following that distress,
"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

²⁶ 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone:
"Watch!"

Talk: Eternal Perspective

- God lived among us

- Jesus will return
- Everyone will notice
- Meanwhile, be alert!
- Live in the light of eternity!

Baptism of Noah Mark

The minister prays

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.

All: Amen.

The minister addresses the whole 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
 child and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

All: With the help of God, we will.

*The minister addresses the
 parents and godparents*

Parents and godparents, the Church
 receives this child 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?

**Parents and Godparents:
 With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism Noah begins
 his journey in faith.

You speak for him today.
Will you care for him,
and help him to take his place
within the life and worship
of Christ's Church?

Parents and Godparents:
With the help of God, we will.

*A large candle is lit. The president
addresses the parents and godparents*

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 turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

The Signing of the Cross:

*The minister make the sign of the cross
on Noah's forehead, saying:*

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

Noah, do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: 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.**

*The candidate receives a blessing,
with these words:*

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.

All: Amen.

Song: Going on a Journey

Prayer over the water:

*The minister, candidate, parents and
Godparents gather at the baptismal font.
The minister stands before the water of
baptism and says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All: who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: 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.
We thank you, Father,
for the water of baptism.
It symbolises our burial
with Christ in his death;
Our sharing in his resurrection;
And our rebirth 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,
those who are baptised in it may know
cleansing and new birth.
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.

All: Amen.

The Profession of Faith:

The minister addresses the congregation
Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the
Father, source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son,
Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

All: We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

The Baptism:

*The minister pours water
on Noah, saying:*

*Noah Mark,
I baptize you
in the name
of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

All: 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.

All: Amen.

The Welcome:

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. By one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All: We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Presentations:

A certificate, holding cross and children's bible are presented to the newly baptised with the words:

Receive this book. It is the good news of God's love. Take it as your guide.

A lit candle is presented to the newly baptised with the words:

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer for Children & Carers

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for Noah
and all children and grant them your gifts of love,
wisdom and faith.

Pour upon them your healing
and reconciling love,
and protect their homes from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for the Baptised

God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation
will be made perfect

in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Responding in Prayer: Place a Petal

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.

Angels from the realms of glory

Angels
From glory!
Angels
From glory!

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship
Worship Christ the King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship

Worship Christ the King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Angels
From glory!
Angels
From glory!

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Ever more your voices raising
To the eternal Three-in-One

Come and worship
Worship Christ the King.
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

The Blessing:

Christ Jesus,
the splendour of the Father and the image of his being,
draw you to himself that you may live in his light and share his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, now and always.

All: Amen