

All Age Baptism Service – 1 August 2021

Notices

From now until 22 August, special resources in Mulbarton Church to help us say and pray our goodbyes – please after the service, do pick up a palm cross, and a piece of string, and tie it to the white railings by the roadside, or to the porch gate. Come back another time for private prayer, to light a candle, and to browse the resources. Check out ataloss.org for online resources.

Photos – phones away – there will be photos taken immediately after the service, when we'll re-enact the baptism moment.

Call to Worship

We come with our curiosity and questions.
We come seeking answers.
We are grateful for our daily bread,
but we yearn for the bread of eternal life.
Let us seek to be fed and filled
with God's life and love.

Opening Prayer

Lord God, giver of life,
you bless us with all we need –
and with so much more.
Keep us from being so focused on physical needs
that we neglect our spiritual food.
Feed us with your word,
satisfy us with your presence,
and strengthen us by your Spirit –
that we may share your eternal life.

Be Still

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:

How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

What's in the Box? Yes/No answers only to discover it's a ciabatta loaf

- It is good to be curious, to want to know, to ask questions – but we like to have answers too! What big or small questions have people asked already today?
- Today, we are going to be looking at the questions Jesus was asked about bread. The crowd wanted him to produce more food, but Jesus said that he was offering something even better – himself. He is the bread of life that will never leave them hungry.
- Does Jesus' response leave you with even more questions?

Confession/Absolution

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you
our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection...
Lord, forgive us. **Help us to walk in your ways.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing...
Lord, forgive us. **Help us to walk in your ways.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven...
Lord, forgive us. **Help us to walk in your ways.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

Baptism Preamble

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.

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/her* in *his/her* new life in Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *this child* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *his/her* growth in faith. Will you pray for *him/her*, draw *him/her* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *him/her* in the way of Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *N* begins *his/her* journey in faith. Will you care for *him/her*, and help *him/her* to take *his/her* place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

Light Paschal candle to symbolise the light of Christ

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.

Signing with the Cross

The sign of the cross is made on the candidate's forehead

N, Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

N, 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.**

The Baptism - pour 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 him thanks and praise.

The prayer over the baptism water reads as follows:

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 baptise into his fellowship
those who come to him in faith.

Now grant 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.

Amen.

The Creed

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made all things?

We believe and trust in him

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

We believe and trust in him

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

We 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

Remind people of baptism as we prepare to pour water

The president or another minister baptises N in water 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.

All: Amen.

*The minister addresses the congregation,
parents and godparents, saying*

We have brought this child to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for him and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ he will know the forgiveness of his sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As he grows up, he will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that he may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve his neighbours after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation. Therefore let us bear this child in our prayers and let us welcome him now.

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.

Certificates and holding cross

Bible Presentation:

A children's bible is 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.

Candle

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.

Prayers for children and the baptised:

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for *N* 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.**

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.**

Here is love

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as a flood
When the prince of life our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood (x2)

Who his love will not remember,
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heavn's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide
Through the floodgates of God's mercy,
Flowed a vast and gracious tide (x2)

Grace and love like mighty rivers,
Flowed incessant from above
Heavens peace and perfect justice,
Kissed a guilty world in love.

In your truth, you love to guide me
By your Spirit through your Word;
And your grace my need is meeting
As I trust in You, my Lord. (x2)

Of your fullness you are pouring
Your great love and power so true
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to You.

John 6:24-35

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

Jesus the Bread of Life

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Talk: "Just Ask"

Today's special offer is 'The Bread of Life' – as much as you can eat! Fast food? Junk food? Forget it! Health food? Real food? Forget that too! What you really need is food that feeds your soul, food that nourishes your spirit, food that keeps you going not only all day but all the way to eternal life. No other supplements needed. There's only one producer of this product: Jesus Christ. Franchises are available in a town near you: visit your local church now to ask about this special offer. Lifelong guarantee of quality and satisfaction (terms and conditions apply).

Following the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus moves out of the immediate scene, prompting some of the crowd to search for him. They find Jesus on the other side of the lake

and are clearly keen for another encounter with the man who provided a miraculous picnic. They were not perhaps prepared for the way Jesus responds to them. Suggesting that they had only looked for him because he gave them food, he opens an intriguing discussion about bread, comparing this everyday necessity to himself as the source of all life and that their work is to believe in him who sustains all things.

How can we do the work that God wants? The questions are turned around. Jesus challenges the religious leaders, those who believed they were so right in their religious practice, but were in fact neglecting the things most important to God, and barring the way for others to get involved in the life of God. On one occasion, they prevented children from coming to Jesus, and Jesus had to overrule them and tell them that the kingdom of God belongs to the children (and by implication, not to them!)

The call to believe in Him, or simply to trust Him, was a rather enigmatic way of Jesus inviting people to begin their adventure with Him – not to worry too much about the details of what it would mean - but to start the journey. Gabriel starts his special journey of faith today, simply coming for baptism demonstrating the faith that Jesus is there and trustworthy, and offers everything that we really need, no matter what challenges life involves. And who knows where such journeys lead? Certainly to belong to a worldwide supportive family of faith, of others treading the same path – godparents encouraging Gabriel along the pathway of faith by their prayers, example and wisdom, and all of us sharing the journey.

I encourage you to bring your questions to Jesus, to recognise He gives what is really needed for our journey through this world – the bread of life, and to trust Jesus if answers are not immediately forthcoming. And I encourage you to seek out and enjoy sharing the journey with other travellers.

How Great is our God (The Splendour of the king)

The splendour of a 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
Trembles at His voice

'Cause you're the name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
You're the name above all names
Worthy of all praise
And my heart will sing
How great is our God

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

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

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 and Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

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

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

Intercessions

As we remember the cross, we pray for those who are suffering, especially those suffering for their faith and who stand against the tide for what they believe. **Amen.**

As we remember your light coming into the world, we pray for that light to shine in dark places, especially where there is injustice, hunger, violence, homelessness, greed and strife. We pray for justice and peace to flourish. **Amen.**

As we remember the water of life, we pray that you would refresh us and help us to grow and to truly live in the power of Your Spirit. Give us the freedom and fulfilment of life in You every day. **Amen.**

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.**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing streams doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey though

Strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee

Blessing & Sending Out:

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 forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.