



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

A Service of the Word



The Baptism of the Christ with Dove by Daniel Bonnell (<https://pixels.com/profiles/bonnell>)

Sunday 10 January 2021
Officiant: The Revd Paul Smith

Welcome and Notices

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise

Your light springs up for the righteous

and all the peoples have seen your glory

As the deer pants for the water

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.*

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king.

I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.*

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Martin J. Nystrom (b. 1956)

African Children's Choir

Prayers of Penitence

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.

Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises
by confessing our sins in penitence.

Titus 3.5

**Almighty God, our 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.
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.

Promise of Forgiveness (Absolution)

May almighty God cleanse us from sin
and make us worthy of the kingdom of his glory.

Amen.

The Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit; grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading:

Genesis 1: 1 - 5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Second Reading:

Mark 1: 4 - 11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than

I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Glorious things of thee are spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;

He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.

On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes

See! The streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove;
Who can faint, while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage —
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age?

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.

Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

*John Newton (1725–1807)
Kings College Cambridge*

SERMON

Affirmation of Faith

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

We 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?

We 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?

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. Amen.**

The Intercessions

At the end of each bidding when the leader says:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

At the end of the prayers we say the Lord's Prayer together.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes, with succour speedy,
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth;
Before him, on the mountains,
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever,
His changeless name of Love.

*James Montgomery (1771–1854) from Psalm 72
music: CC from The Church of England.*

The Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

Final Music

An excerpt from Handel's *Water Music*

**We shall keep the Zoom session open if anyone wants to stay online
and chat - don't forget to un-mute.**

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