

St Barbara's Church Earlsdon



Family Communion with Baptism

A very warm welcome to St Barbara's.

Baptism

Baptism (also known as *christening*) marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in our response to God's love.

It is a joyful moment for all involved, particularly for those getting baptised, and for their parents and godparents, as we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, and as we make serious promises and declare our faith in Christ.

The wider community of the local church, family and friends welcome those newly baptised, promising them support and prayer for the future.

As we prepare for this service, please do pray for those being baptised today.

During the service, please join in the words in **bold**.

After the baptism part of the service, all children are warmly invited to go out to the Sunday school in the church hall, where there will be age-appropriate activities. The children will come back in before the end of the service to share what they have been doing.

And please do join us for refreshments in the church hall after the service—it will be lovely to get to know you more.

We hope you will enjoy the service.

The Gathering

We **stand** as the choir and clergy enter the church.



We **sit** for the NOTICES.

We stand to sing our **OPENING HYMN**.

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

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We sit or kneel as we pray a prayer of PREPARATION for the service:
Loving God, we have come to worship you.

**Help us to pray to you in faith,
To sing your praise with gratitude,
And to listen to your word with eagerness;
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*We have a time of **CONFESSION**, a time when we acknowledge our failings before God and ask and receive his forgiveness.*

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
That we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Baptism

INTRODUCTION



The baptismal candidates with their parents and godparents are invited to the front of the church.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

Let us pray:

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. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

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 these children and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The minister then addresses the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children 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?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.
You speak for them today.
Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

The minister addresses the candidates through their 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 reject the devil and all 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.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying:

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

When all have been signed, the minister says:

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.

We sing a SONG as the baptism party processes to the font.

THE PRAYER OVER 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 thanks and praise.

As the water is poured into the font, the minister prays:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God, give us life.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Saving God, give us life.



Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Saving God, give us life.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The minister addresses the congregation:

Let us affirm, together with these who are going to be baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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

I 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?

I 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?

I 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.

THE BAPTISM

The minister pours water on each of the candidates, 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.

Amen.

THE COMMISSION

When all the candidates have been baptized, the minister addresses the parents and godparents and then prays for them:

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for these children and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith. Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their home 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.

THE GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The newly baptized are given a lighted candle and the minister says:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

THE WELCOME

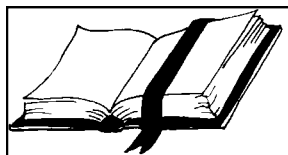
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

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

People return to their seats, and the children go out to their groups.

The Word of God



We *sit* to hear our first **BIBLE READING**.

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

We *stand* to sing our next **HYMN**.

We remain *standing* for our **GOSPEL READING**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We *sit* to hear the **SERMON**.

After the sermon, we *sit* or *kneel* for our **PRAYERS**.

Our response to the prayers may be:

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.



The Eucharist

We *stand* to share the **PEACE**.

We are the Body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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

We share with one another a sign of peace, such as a handshake.

We *stand* to sing our **OFFERTORY HYMN**, during which a collection is taken for the work of the church, and the bread and wine are placed on the communion table.

We say together:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you
and of your own do we give you.**

We remain *standing* for the **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends,
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We sit or kneel, as we pray the LORD'S PRAYER together

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.**

The minister BREAKS THE BREAD, and says:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat
and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in
your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please come up for communion as directed. If you don't normally
receive communion please feel free to come up for a prayer of
blessing—simply keep your hands by your side and your head
bowed. And please do bring children up for a prayer of blessing too.*

Please do join in the hymns sung during communion.

At the end of communion, we PRAY together:

**Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
preserve in your people the new life of baptism;
as Christ receives us on earth,
so may he guide us through the trials of this world
and enfold us in the joy of heaven,
where you live and reign,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending Out

We hear from the children what they have been doing.

We stand for a final BLESSING.

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face to
shine upon and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and
give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*We sing our FINAL HYMN and turn to the face the door as the
cross passes.*

We remain standing to say our final words together:

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.