

## St Mary's Church, Chartham A Service of Holy Baptism

### *Introduction and Welcome*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### **And also with you**

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 call us to fullness of life.

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/candidates*

And uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

*The minister of baptism then says to 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.**

In baptism, God call 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.**

*Bible reading and Talk*

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.**

*Prayer over the water*

We now affirm, before God and his church, the Christian faith into which  
(Name) will be baptized.

So I ask:

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 his Son, Jesus Christ, who took our human  
nature, died, and rose again for us?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in 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*

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

I sign you with the sign of the cross, the sign of Christ.

**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 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.**

### *Giving of a lighted candle*

Today God has touched you with his love  
and given you a place among his people.

God promises to be with you in joy and in sorrow,  
to be your guide in life, and to bring you safely to heaven.

In baptism God invites you on a lifelong journey of faith.

For this journey 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 Commission*

We have brought *these children* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that, in Jesus Christ, *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ and, in due course, come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching. As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith.

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.**

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.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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;**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Blessing*

Go in the light and peace of Christ

**Thanks be to God. Amen**