

Opening sentences

God is spirit.

Let us worship him in spirit and truth.

The Lord is with us.

Let us praise his name together.

Opening prayer

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us new hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn SoF147

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Hymn

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Invitation to confession

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.

Confession

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:
Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

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.**

Hymn SoF1187

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE,

I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
 And tells me of the guilt within,
 Upward I look and see Him there
 Who made an end to all my sin.
 Because the sinless Saviour died,
 My sinful soul is counted free;
 For God the Just is satisfied
 To look on Him and pardon me,
 To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
 My perfect, spotless righteousness;
 The great unchangeable I AM,
 The King of glory and of grace!
 One with Himself I cannot die,
 My soul is purchased with His blood;
 My life is hid with Christ on high,
 With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
 With Christ my Saviour and my God.

Charitie L. Bancroft (1841-92)

Reading: Psalm 139

Talk

The baptism

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.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give 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.**

Jesus said let the children come to me do not stop them.
We thank you God for *these children* who have come to be baptised today.

Christ loves them and welcomes them into his church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support *these children* as they begin their journey of faith?

We will

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family?

We will

God knows each of us by name and we are his
Parents and Godparents, you speak for *these children* today.
Will you pray for them, and help them to follow Christ?

We will.

The president 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?

All With the help of God, we will.

We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore, I ask:

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Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptised in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon Him and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptised in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit, may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Let us affirm, together with those who are being baptised, 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?

All 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?

All 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?

All I 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.**

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

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.**

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.

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.

All Amen.

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.**

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.

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

Hymn SoF 44

BLESSED ASSURANCE, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Fanny J. Crosby.

Prayers

Lord's prayer

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.

*Hymn SoF418***O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED**

To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,

And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking
 In accents clear and still,
 Above the storms of passion,
 The murmurs of self-will;
 O speak to reassure me,
 To hasten, or control;
 O speak, and make me listen,
 Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
 To all who follow Thee
 That where Thou art in glory
 There shall Thy servants be;
 And, Jesus, I have promised
 To serve Thee to the end;
 O give me grace to follow
 My Master and my Friend.

O let me see Thy footmarks,
 And in them plant mine own;
 My hope to follow duly
 Is in Thy strength alone.
 O guide me, call me, draw me,
 Uphold me to the end;
 And then in heaven receive me,
 My Saviour and my Friend

John Ernest Bode.

Parents and godparents, we are glad to have welcomed you here for the baptism of *N* Today *they* have joined us on our Christian journey. Baptism unites us with Christ and to his whole Church, on earth and in heaven.

Here, we shall do all that we can to ensure that there is a welcoming place for you. We will play our part in helping you guide *these children* along the way of faith.

Bringing up children as Christians has its challenges. *N and N* will need to discover the story of Christ's birth, death and resurrection, the pattern of his loving life, and the teaching that he gave. We pray that *they* will come closer to God as *they* grow in faith, explore the Bible, and make *their* baptismal promises for *themselves* when *they* come to confirmation.

As well as worshipping with the Church, Christians follow Jesus by standing up for truth and justice, and showing compassion to those in need. They are to be faithful and loving. The example that you give by prayer and the life that you lead will affect *N and N* for *their* whole life. Remember to ask for God's help, and pray for *them* often, as we now pray for you.

Keep us, Father, in this community of faith,
the Church of your Son Jesus Christ,
and help us to confess him as Messiah and Lord
in all we say and do. We ask this in his name. **Amen**

The blessing

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.