



St Edmund's Church Taverham

and St Peter's Church Ringland

11th January 2026

The Baptism of Christ

Most of the liturgy this morning is taken from *Celtic Daily Prayer*

©2015 The Northumbria Community Trust. The Northumbria Community is a dispersed, international Christian community, originating from the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The liturgy of *Celtic Daily Prayer* draws on the traditions of ancient Celtic Christianity, and aims to honour our rich heritage in the Northern Saints such as Aidan and Cuthbert. The liturgy reflects the central themes of Celtic spirituality: an emphasis on God as Trinity; the beauty and holiness of the created order; the sacramental nature of our ordinary life and work; and the importance of silence and contemplation to our growth in the knowledge of God.

Are you thirsty, are you empty

Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken, peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters

Christ is calling, find refreshing

At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down, all the old gone
Rise up in these living waters

There's a river that flows with mercy and love

Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

Spirit moving, mercy washing

Healing in these living waters
Lead your children to the shore line
Life is in these living waters

Are you thirsty, are you empty

Come, and drink these living waters
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless
Christ, He is our living waters
(Ed Cash & Keith Getty)

A candle is lit.

+ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God welcomes all, strangers and friends

God;s love is strong and it never ends

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

(John Bell)

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 29)

The voice of our God and King is heard in blessing,
as it echoes in its majestic powers over all creation.

**We come to worship our God, and to celebrate the
Mystery and Reality that is God's everlasting glory.**

The voice of God is heard in all creation – and it responds
with joy to the voice of its Creator, Sustainer and Renewer.

**We come to worship our God, and to celebrate God's
power and generosity towards all creation and all peoples.**

We come to worship our God, and to celebrate the
way we are welcomed into God's glorious presence.

**The voice of our Holy God is heard in the sacred
spaces, and God's grace is received as we worship. Amen.**

(written by Joan Stott)

Angel voices ever singing, round Your throne of light

Angel harps forever ringing, rest not day nor night

Thousands only live to bless thee

And confess thee Lord of might

Thou who art beyond the farthest mortal eye can see

Can it be that Thou regardest our poor hymnody?

Yes, we know that thou art near us

And will hear us constantly

Yes we know that Thou rejoicest o;er each work of Thine

Thou didst ears and hands and voices for Thy praise design

Craftsman;s art and music & measure

For Thy pleasure all combine

In Thy house great God we offer of Thine own to Thee

And for Thine acceptance proffer all unworthily

Hearts and minds and hands and voices

In our choicest psalmody

Honour glory might and merit thine shall ever be

Father Son and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity

Of the best that Thou hast given

Earth and heaven render Thee

(Francis Pott)

Opening sentences

**One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.**

Who is it that you seek?
We seek the Lord our God.

Do you seek Him with all
your heart?
Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your soul?
Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all
your mind?
Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all
your strength?
Amen, Christ, have mercy.

Declaration of faith

**To whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life,
and we have believed and have come
to know
that You are the Holy One of God.
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory.**

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew beginning at chapter 3 verse 13

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'

But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word

Just to rest upon His promise, just to know, thus saith the Lord

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him
How I've proved Him over and over
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus
O for grace to trust Him more

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood
Just in simple faith to plunge me,;neath the healing, cleansing flood

Yes tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease
Just from Jesus simply taking, life and rest, and joy and peace

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, Saviour, Friend
And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end
(Louisa M R Stead / William James Kirkpatrick, Public Domain)

Sermon

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken

Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom
Forgive me for my unbelief; renew the fire again

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me

I have built an altar where I worship things of man
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again

I have longed to know You and Your tender mercies
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end
I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence
Your grace forever shining, like a beacon in the night
(Michael W. Smith)

Prayers

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**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.**

God loved the world so much, this we know, this we know

God loved the world so much, this we know
God loved the world so much, the world not just the church
That Christ came into touch, into time, into view
Declaring he would make all things new

Shall we who bear his name stay the same, stay the same?
Shall we who bear his name stay the same?
Or shall we turn our face towards a different place
And hearing words of grace meant for all, great and small
Respond to Jesus' promise and call?

To God we give ourselves, body, mind, heart and soul
To God we give our mind, heart and soul
O Jesus now instil a passion for your will
To love all people and in our care of the Earth
Walk in your way and cherish our worth
(John Bell & Graham Maule)

**Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.**

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ;
and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus,
fill your hearts, souls and minds;
may the power of God which upheld them,
strengthen you for each day;
and may the love of God which directed their every action
be your guiding light and your shining star,
both now and forevermore. Amen
(Rev. Richard J. Fairchild)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,

wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

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