

Introduction

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly Diana but also Andrew, Harriet and her godparents, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered.

Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of new life, the lighted candle is a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptised walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for Diana, picture her with you and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

The Welcome

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

All: And also with you.

Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Opening Prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for this special day in the life of Diana and her family. We ask that in this time together we may sense your presence with us, and the love you have for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Reading

read by Stephanie Stock

Mark 1: 1-11

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”.

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.’

The Baptism of Jesus

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.’

Presentation

The Minister invites the Parents and Godparents to come to the font and asks the Godparents to present Diana.

Godparents: We present Diana to be baptised.

The minister says to parents and godparents:

In baptism, Diana begins her Journey in faith. Parents and godparents, you speak for Diana today. So I ask you:

Will you support her, as she begins her journey of faith to follow Christ?

All: We will.

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

All: We will.

The Decision

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:

Do you turn away from sin? **Answer: I do.**

Do you reject evil? **Answer: I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **Answer: I do.**

Do you trust in Him as Lord? **Answer: I do.**

Signing with the Cross

The Minister uses Holy oil to trace the sign of the cross on the forehead of Diana.

Christ claims you for His own, receive the sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ, you are his forever.

**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. Amen**

Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Prayer over Water

Heavenly Father, bless this water, that whoever is washed in it may be made one with Christ in the fellowship of your Church, and be brought through every tribulation to share the risen life that is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm, together with Diana who is 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 to 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.

Amen.

The Baptism

Diana, I baptise 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 the Church,
pour upon you the riches of God's grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by the anointing Spirit
and come to the inheritance of the saints in heaven.

Diana, today God has touched you with love
and given you a place among God's people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life.

In baptism, God invites you on a life long journey.
Together with all God's people
may you explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for all people
and in serving others.

The Welcome and Peace

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Diana, by the one Spirit we are all baptised into one today.

**All: Diana we welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
We are the children of the same heavenly father;
We welcome you.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

The Prayers

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.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Giving of a Candle

Diana, you have received the light of Christ,

May it lighten each step you take all the days of your life.

All: Let your light shine so that the radiance of God may be shown.

Hymn

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go,
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.