

The Preface and Declarations

Readings

Colossians 3.12-17, read by Richard Kelly

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I Belong In Your Arms by Deborah Bridea, read by Eliza James

I belong in your arms
Finally, I have found a place
Into which I fit perfectly, safely
And securely with no doubts,
No fears, no sadness, no tears.

This place is filled with happiness and laughter
Yet it is spacious enough, to allow me
The freedom to move around,
To live my life and be myself.
This wonderful place, which I never believed really existed,
I have found finally
Inside your arms, inside your heart, inside your love.

The Address

The Marriage

The Blessing of the Marriage

The Signing of the Marriage Document

Choir: *Sing Joyfully* by William Byrd

If Ye Love Me by Thomas Tallis

Hymn

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear:
In Him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendor He is crowned:
How awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

The Baptism

My Wish For You by Ralph Waldo Emerson, read by Reuben and Elizabeth James(!)

This is my wish for you:
Comfort on difficult days,
smiles when sadness intrudes,
rainbows to follow the clouds,
laughter to kiss your lips,
sunsets to warm your heart,
hugs when spirits sag,
beauty for your eyes to see,
friendships to brighten your being,
faith so that you can believe,
confidence for when you doubt,
courage to know yourself,
patience to accept the truth,
Love to complete your life.

The Collect Prayer for Baptism

God our Creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.
We give thanks for all whose support and skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.
As Jesus knew love and discipline within a human family,
may Alexander grow in strength and wisdom.
As Mary and Joseph knew the joys and pains of parenthood,
give Reuben and Liz your sustaining grace and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Presentation of the Candidate

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for Alexander who has come to be baptised today. Christ loves him and welcomes him into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support Alexander as he begins his journey of faith?

We will.

Will you help him 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 Alexander today.

Will you pray for him, and help him to follow Christ?

Parents and godparents: We will.

The Decision

The minister addresses the parents and godparents.

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?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

Do you reject evil?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

Do you trust in him as lord?

Parents & Godparents: I do.

The Declaration of Our Faith

The minister addresses the congregation:

Let us affirm together the faith which is ours and is of the Church
throughout the world,
and which, we pray, will become Alexander's faith:

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 Waters of Baptism

The water is poured into the font.

The minister leads a prayer over the water saying:

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 Alexander who is to be baptised in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
filled with your Spirit
and know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever.

Amen.

The Baptism

Alexander John Holmes James, I baptise you
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Sign of the Cross

The minister makes the sign of the cross on Alexander's forehead saying:

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

The Giving of a Candle and a Bible

A lighted candle and a Bible are given to Alexander, and the minister says:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place
with the saints in light.

Alexander, 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:

Alexander, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

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

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.