

Welcome to St Andrew's Church.

Please join in the words in ***Bold Italics*** in the order of service.

For The Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter

Sung by the Bedford Choral Society Chamber Choir

THE GREETING

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

The Paschal candle is lit.

HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful **Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)**

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky;

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them, every one.

Refrain

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

INTRODUCTION

We rejoice today with the family of Leo
as they thank God for the gift of life and bring their child 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 this child grow in strength and wisdom.

As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood,
give these parents your sustaining grace and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

THE COLLECT

Father Dominic introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

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

GOSPEL READINGS

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John and Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John Chapter 3 (Verses 1-8) read by Rupert Marks
Matthew Chapter 28 (Verses 16-20) read by Ivana O'Brien

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE PRESENTATION

Father Dominic invites Bali, Ravine, and Leo's godparents to stand for the Presentation. The first question is addressed to all:

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 this child and uphold them in
their new life in Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

Father Dominic then says to Bali, Ravine, and Leo's godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives this child 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 this child begins 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.

THE DECISION

Father Dominic addresses Bali, Ravine, and Leo's godparents:

In baptism, God calls 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.

All stand.

Father Dominic and the baptismal party gather around the font.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

Father Dominic makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of Leo with the holy oil:

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
**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 almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and
obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OVER THE WATER

Water is poured into the font.

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 thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm 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?

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 BAPTISM

Father Dominic sprinkles water on Leo's forehead, saying:

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

Father Dominic says:

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.

THE GIVING OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

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.

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

Father Dominic and baptismal party stand at the front of the church. The congregation remains standing.

THE WELCOME AND PEACE

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
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.**

Leo is greeted with a round of applause.

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The baptismal party return to their seats.

Wishes for a Child by Joanna Miller *read by Dr Lakhan Basi*

HYMN

One More Step Along the World I Go
Sydney Carter (1915 - 2004)

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 traveling along with you:

Refrain

And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corner 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

Refrain

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me traveling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

Refrain

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me traveling along with you:

Refrain

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me traveling along with you:

Refrain