

*"Promise me you'll always remember: You're  
braver than you believe, and stronger than you  
seem, and smarter than you think."*

**A.A Milne**

## **Pastoral Introduction**

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

*John 10.10*

## **Preparation**

When You Wish Upon a Star

*Sung by* Natalie Smith

## **The Greeting**

*The priest says*

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.**

## **Words of Welcome**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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 Emily grow in strength and wisdom.

As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood,  
give Catriona and Alex your sustaining grace and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The minister says to the parents*

Do you receive Emily as a gift from God?

**We do.**

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

**We do.**

Friends and Family, Will you do all that you can to help and support Catriona and Alex in the bringing up of Emily?

**With the help of God we will.**

*A copy of a Gospel is presented, with these words*

Receive this book.

It is the good news of God's love.

Take it as your guide.

## **Introduction**

*The minister introduces the sacrament of 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.

### **The Collect**

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.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **'Wishes for A Child', by Joanna Miller**

*Read by* Lottie Ford

May you know the gift of friendship,  
Feel the sun upon your face,  
May you win displaying dignity,  
And accept defeat with grace,

May you marvel with the wonders,  
Of nature and the earth,  
May you value education,  
And know your own true worth,

May you live and love with honesty,  
And do the thing that's right,  
May you stand up for the less fortunate,  
And sleep in peace at night,

May you thrive upon a challenge,  
And sing and dance and laugh,  
May you know the joy of parenthood,  
And follow your own path.

## **Gospel Reading**

*Read by Freddy Snowden*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

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.”

**Mark 1.1-11**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Liturgy of Baptism Presentation of the Candidates**

*To the whole congregation*

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.  
We thank God for Emily who has come to be baptized today.  
Christ loves her and welcomes her into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support Emily as she begins her journey of faith?

**We will.**

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

**We will.**

*To the parents and Godparents*

God knows each of us by name and we are God's.  
Parents and godparents, you speak for Emily today.  
Will you pray for Emily,  
and help her to follow Christ?

**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 parents and Godparents:

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.**

## **Signing with the Cross**

*The minister makes the sign of the cross on Emily's forehead,  
saying*

Emily, 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.**

### **Prayer over the Water**

*The minister stands before the water of baptism and says*

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 praise you, loving Father,

for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptized in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came upon him

and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers

to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptized 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.**



## **Profession of Faith**

Let us affirm,  
together with Emily who is being baptized,  
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 God.**

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 God the Son.**

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 God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## **Baptism**

*What is the name of this child?*

*The minister pours water on them, saying*

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

**Amen.**

*The minister 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 Commission**

Faithful and loving God,  
bless those who care for these children  
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.  
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,  
and protect their homes from all evil.  
Fill them with the light of your presence  
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Welcome and Peace**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
Emily, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

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

*The congregation may greet the newly baptized.*

*The minister introduces the Peace*

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  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**All may exchange a sign of peace.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God be with you  
in this your day,  
every day and every way,  
with you and for you,  
today and all your days,  
and the love  
and affection  
of heaven  
be toward you.

May God make clear to you each road;  
may God make safe to you each step;  
should you stumble, hold you;  
should you fall, lift you up;  
when you are hard pressed with darkness,  
deliver you,  
and bring you to the light that is love.

(Adapted from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*,  
p.557-558)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As your children, born again in Christ, we say

**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.**

Isn't She Lovely  
*Sung by* Natalie Smith