



**Order of Service**

**16<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND BAPTISM**

**Introit:** 121 (TiS) 'God himself is present'

(People may be seated)

**Welcome:**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also, with you.

**Acknowledgement:**

**Call to Worship:**

Come, join the feast of life

our Host waits with outstretched hands.

Come, dance in delight because love has come

and the wine of celebration is being poured.

Come, lift up your hearts

to receive the abundance that waits for us,

for the Christ is present

and we will touch the life of God.

**Hymn:** 52 (TiS) 'Let us sing to the God of salvation'

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:**

Our hearts are filled with gratitude, O God, as we see how trusting you are. We stand on mountain tops of hope, raised up by your faith in us each day.

Our lives are often filled with joy as we find your will for us.

We give thanks for all who are here, your humble people in this place, working together as we try to be your faithful disciples and a living witness.

Thanks be to you, O God.

If we fail to offer all that we have and all that we are to this, your Body, believing that we have little to give, or that our lives are less worthy than others:

Forgive us, O God and restore our trust in you and in each other, we pray.

When our lives become barriers to receiving the gifts of others, as we rush in with solutions or overwhelm people with our own talents:

Forgive us, O God and restore our trust in you and in each other, we pray.

If our church does not always bear witness to your care for all people, to the little and the least, to those who are different from ourselves, or who stand back and need to be embraced in love:

Forgive us, O God and restore our trust in you and in each other, we pray. For we are your people, loving Jesus. Amen.



**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

God gathers all creation into hands of love, seeing each anxious moment and each trembling hope. The body of Christ is formed from ordinary human life, life which always waits for grace and renewal.

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

**Doxology:** 772 (TiS) 'Worship, honour, glory, blessing'

**Readings:** Isaiah 62: 1-5, Psalm 36: 5-10, John 2: 1 – 11

**Sermon:** 'From the ordinary to a miracle'

- The gospel reading from John does not offer us any details about the wedding, whose wedding it was. Neither the groom or the bride is mentioned, or even the steward. But, the mother of Jesus is mentioned, and it is not clear whether Jesus was invited.
- Preparation for a wedding are meticulous, with much more thought given to guests list, catering venue and the reception, the clothes to wear before they head to church for the ceremony.
- Marriage couples would be horrified at the thought of running out of food or drink for their guests.
- The couple at Cana would be just as horrified at the thought that their hospitality was insufficient, especially if the whole town of Galilee and all the extended family and friends were invited.
- Anyhow, in Cana, disaster strike! The wedding ran out of wine. Running out of wine bring shame to the newlyweds and their families. Because it says that they don't care and therefore insulting their guests, or it says that we are too poor to supply sufficient wine.
- Mary finds out, which gives us a clue that Mary may have been a close relative or had something to do with the task of supplying the wine. She saw the problem with all its implications and told Jesus about it.
- Mary spoke to the servants, "Do as he tells you". The servants did follow their orders, and wine was produced, only this time the wine is better than the wine that was served earlier.
- The family was saved from embarrassment, shame, and guilt. Instead, they will be remembered for providing the best and most wonderful wine ever drunk in Cana.
- In the gospels, wine often symbolises the blood of Jesus and we do so too in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with the words, "Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many.:
- The wine in Cana flowed in abundance to save from embarrassment, guilt and shame. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was made once for all on the cross, not limited to a few, not stingy, not limited to those of us in the church, but available to all who confess that Jesus is Lord.
- We take our shortcomings to him in prayer, we listen to him through the preaching of the word, and we do what he commands us to do.
- Those who are invited to the wedding feast are blessed. The invitation is not given in a rush, not hastily given to someone that has been forgotten, but given graciously to us all.
- And we are instructed to pass on that invitation – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them all that I have commanded you."
- Jesus can transform our lives from the ordinary to miraculous living. We can dance in celebration every day of our lives because of the abundant grace we receive without merits.

**Hymn:** 494 (TiS) 'In water we grow'

## **Children's Baptism:**

### **Presentation:**

(The elder responsible for the care of the families brings the parents and children to be baptised forward, and introduces them to the congregation)

Nattalie Brown and Greg Joinbee have come today to present their daughters Florence and Delilah Joinbee for baptism.

Alarna Macklin and Reilly Pethybridge are here also to present their daughter Layla Maree Pethybridge for baptism.

### **Scripture:**

Hear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

### **The meaning of baptism:**

Obeying the word of the Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, the church baptises those whom he has called.

Baptism is a sign of new life in Christ Jesus. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are brought into union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

In baptism we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, made members of the body of Christ, and called to his ministry in the world.

### **Renunciation and Affirmation:**

Greg and Nattalie, what do you ask of God's church for Florence and Delilah?

We ask that they be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

Reilly and Alarna, what do you ask of God's church for Layla?

We ask that they be baptised into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

In the light of the covenant promise and of your requests, I ask you now:

Do you believe that the gospel enables us to turn from the darkness of evil and to walk in the light of Christ?

We do.

Florence, Delilah and Layla, may the Lord open your ears to receive his word, and your mouths to proclaim his praise.

### **The minister says to the parents and the congregation:**

Let us confess the faith into which we are baptised.

*The people stand.*

Do you believe in God, who made you and loves you?

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Lord?

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*



*On the third day he rose again; he ascended to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, and the continuing work of our salvation?*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*The people remain standing.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

The elder pours water into the font.

The Lord be with you.  
*And also, with you.*

Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of water: in the beginning you moved over the waters to bring order out of chaos; from the great flood in the days of Noah you saved those on the ark; through the Red Sea you led your people to freedom from slavery in Egypt; across the river Jordan you led Israel to the land you promised; in the waters of the Jordan our Lord was baptised by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit, bless this water and those who are baptised in it; that they may be born anew of water and the Spirit, be raised to new life in Christ, and continue to be his faithful disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.  
Amen.

**The baptism:**

Little children, for you Jesus Christ has come, has suffered; for you, he has agony of Gethsemane and the darkness of Calvary; for you, he has uttered the cry, 'It is accomplished!' For you, he has triumphed over death; for you, he prays at God's right hand; all for you dear children, even though you do not know it. In baptism, the word of the apostle is fulfilled: 'We love, because God first loved us'.

Florence Joinbee, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Delilah Joinbee, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Layla Maree Pethybridge, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Florence, Delilah and Layla, from this day on the sign of the cross is upon you.  
Florence, Delilah and Layla are now received into the holy catholic Church according to Christ's command.



(The children are carried through the congregation while the Aaronic blessing is being sung)

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.

**Responses:**

Nattalie, Greg, Reilly and Alarna, I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to your children by making these solemn promises:

Will you provide for your children a Christian home of love and trust?

*With God's help, we will.*

Will you set before your children the example of a Christian life, and will you pray that they will learn the way of Christ?

*With God's help, we will.*

Will you encourage your children to grow within the fellowship of the church, so that they may come to faith in Christ?

*With God's help, we will.*

I charge you, the people of this congregation, to maintain the life of worship and service, that these children and all the children among you may grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and love of God.

*With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, and encouraging one another in service.*

Almighty God, we praise you for all that you have done for us. We thank you for declaring your love for Florence, Delilah and Layla today before they can understand.

As you have loved them from the beginning, continue to protect and guide them. May they become loyal disciples of Jesus Christ.

We thank you for your goodness to Nattalie, Greg, Alarna and Reilly. Grant your blessing upon their homes and help them to keep the promises they have made.

We pray for ourselves who so easily forget your grace, that by sharing in this mystery we may recall our own baptism and continue to walk in the light of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Praise be to God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**Presentation:**

(A gift from the congregation, including the presentation of the certificate of baptism, may be made)



## **Adult Baptism:**

### **Presentation:**

(The elder brings the candidate forward and introduces her to the congregation)

Alarna Maree Macklin has come today for baptism.

### **Scripture:**

Jesus said: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.

### **Renunciation and affirmation:**

Through baptism we enter the covenant which God has established.

In the light of the gospel we proclaim, I ask you now:

Alarna, do you repent of your sins?

*I repent of my sins.*

Do you turn to Jesus Christ, who has defeated the power of sin and death and brought us new life?

*I turn to Christ.*

Do you pledge yourself to God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and in the Holy Spirit as Counsellor and Guide?

*I pledge myself to God.*

Alarna, may the Lord open your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

Let us confess the faith into which we are baptised.

(The people stand)

Do you believe in God, who made you and loves you?

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, your Saviour and Lord?

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

*On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, and the continuing work of our salvation?

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

(The people remain standing for the baptism)

### **The baptism:**

Alarna Maree Macklin, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Alarna, from this day on the sign of the cross is upon you.

Alarna Maree Macklin is now received into the holy catholic Church according to Christ's command.

(The people may be seated)



**Presentation:**

(A gift from the congregation, including the presentation of the baptism certificate)

**Hymn:** 224 (TiS) 'All hail the power of Jesus' name'

**Notices:****Joys and Concerns:****Offering:**

O God, we know we are never really as generous as you are to us, but we have given all we can at this time in our lives. Receive our gifts now, we pray, and bless them and us.

In the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**Prayers of the People:**

O Christ of the wedding feast remind us of the celebration and delights which could engage us as we go through life. Make us people who are known as those who are far from dull and rarely overtaken by alienating piousness.

Give us the lightness of being which engaged you and others in the ordinary occasions of life. Grant that we may act like the people who are invited to the party and who carry abundance with us.

Even as we pray for this way of living with others, we pray that we will find ways of holding this together with our grave concern for those whose lives are far removed from joy.

We think of them now before you:

Give to us a healthy balance between playing and working for others.

Help us to discover that our abundance lies in both directions and that one brings the other to fullness of life.

Fill the glasses of our lives to overflowing, Jesus Christ,  
and guide our lips to the cup of your hopefulness.

Pass the bread of your life between us in grace  
and show that it expands into greater life if we share it.

Fill our meetings with laughter and kindness

and guide us now so that we leave this place with hands held out in love towards the world. Hear our prayers this day, O God. Amen.

**Hymn:** 690 (TiS) 'Beauty for brokenness'

**Presentation of the candles:****Blessing:**

Go now with the love of Christ into the world, which always waits for God's abundance.

And may the dancing life of the Spirit take your hand, the feast of the Christ be spread out before you and the Loving Parent conceive joy within you each day.

Amen.

**Recessional song:** 779 (TiS) 'May the feet of God walk with you'

