

# BAPTISM

## The start of an Amazing Adventure

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives and is the first step in response to God's love. It is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring our faith.

This service paints vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian journey. There is the sign of the cross, reminding 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, uniting us to Christ's dying and rising. And water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit.

### **WELCOME**

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **WE LIGHT OUR ADVENT CANDLES - PEACE**

God of peace, keep us from getting caught up in the busyness of the world around us.

Help us to slow down, so that we may find rest in Jesus - the Prince of Peace.

As we prepare for his coming, make us instruments of your peace in our homes, in our schools, in our work and in our world. **Amen.**

**FLAMES** – We pray for our children and their leaders

**SONG** – Who Can Know

**CONFESSION**

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.  
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;  
Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say;  
Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations  
in the world about us;  
Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;  
Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

**WE ARE FORGIVEN**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy  
upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm  
and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING - John 1:6-8, 19-28**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## TALK

**SONG** – The Light of the World  
(Flames return during the song)

### A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S FAMILY

God invites us to be members of his family. Today we are going to welcome Jenson and Harrison into his family so let's first take a few moments to think about this family and celebrate God's love for everyone.

God's family stretches across the world; through time, over continents and oceans.

**In his family all are welcome.**

His family brings people together; sad people, happy people, young people, old people.

**In his family we learn to care.**

In his family we discover that he forgives us for all the wrong things we've said and done.

**In his family we learn to forgive others so that, together, we can start over again.**

*Listen for his voice in your heart.*

God's family should be a place of healing in body, mind and spirit.

**He binds up the broken hearted and makes the wounded spirit whole.**

In his family we learn to trust him through good times and bad.

**He helps us when we are weak or afraid.**

God's family should be a force for change.

**He is making the whole world new.**

**God loves the world he has made; in Jesus he is putting right the things that have gone wrong; through his Spirit he fills us with new life.**

*Listen for his voice in your heart.*

## **PRESENTATION**

Because Jenson and Harrison and those who help bring them up cannot live out the promises they make without the help and encouragement of others, I ask everyone here:

People of God, will you welcome Jenson and Harrison and support them in their new life in Jesus?

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

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Jenson and Harrison with joy. In baptism they begin the journey of trusting God. You speak for them today.

Will you pray for them, will you care for them, will you draw them by your example into God's family and travel with them in the way of Jesus?

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

## **DECISION**

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 parents and Godparents I ask,  
Will you take steps to empty out of your life attitudes and actions that are wrong?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you turn to Jesus to cleanse, heal and rescue you from all that destroys life?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you follow Jesus' teaching and example, fighting against evil and standing up for good?

**With the help of God, I will.**

### **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

Jenson, Jesus claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Harrison, Jesus claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of our crucified Saviour.

**Fight bravely as a follower of Jesus against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Jesus to the end of your life.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace that as you travel with all God's family you may daily be renewed by his Spirit, and come to inherit heavenly glory. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Jesus in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed, healed and rescued from all wrong doing.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the family of God and raise them through the power of Jesus to fullness of life now and in the world to come.

## **BELIEFS**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to declare together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father creator of heaven and earth, the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in God who made us.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who became like one of us, died for us, and rose again?

**I believe and trust in God who rescues us.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Jesus known in the world?

**I believe and trust in God who helps us.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

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

**Amen.**

### **BAPTISM**

Jenson Ellis, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Harrison James, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **GIVING OF A CANDLE**

God has delivered us from the strongholds 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 to the world  
to the Glory of God the Father**

### **WELCOME**

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

**We welcome you into the family of God; we are children of the same Heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

**SONG** – Give me oil in my lamp

## **PRAYER**

We pray for Jenson, Harrison, the world and the church,  
finishing with the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **NOTICES AND BANNES**

**SONG** – Let Your Light Shine

## **BLESSING**

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,  
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**