

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield
9th January 2022**

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME

Thought for the day

To the Hebrew people God said “I will be your God and you will be my people.”

To all people God still says, “you are mine and I love you just as you are”.

COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. ch43.1–7

1 Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up,’ and to the south, ‘Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth –

7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.’

PSALM 29

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. 9 And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, ‘Glory!’ 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. ch8.14–17

14 When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit

16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. ch3.15–17, 21–22

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

16 John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,

22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

PRAYERS

God our Father we ask that you hear us as we bring before you now in our prayers our hopes and dreams for a better year, a better world, for better human relationships and for lives restored to wholeness. In all these we seek no more than your grace allows. **Lord hear us.**

Lord we pray for your world-wide Church, that it may continue to spread into every corner of the globe. We remember our sisters and brothers in areas where churches face challenges on so many fronts and yet bring glory to Christ by their witness. While we pray for our own church we give thanks for all who worship in many denominations and traditions asking that all may work together to share Christ's message. **Lord hear us**

As we recall the baptism of Christ we remember and pray for all recently baptised and those who will be baptised in the months ahead . We pray for the families who will bring them for baptism asking that seeds of faith may grow and blossom in the years to come.

Lord hear us

Father of all nations, we pray for an end to all that causes conflict and wars; divisions of race, culture and religion and the gulf between rich and poor. Lord you show us that there are always solutions to what seem impossible tasks to overcome. Help those with the power to look for just and hopefully peaceful resolutions.

Lord hear us

We pray for those struggling with the aftermath of natural calamities; wildfires floods, drought and desertification leading to famine. We still have to learn that we

are not master of every situation and that nature can be so unpredictable. We remember those trying to predict our world's climate for the benefit of future generations and those who must make strategic decisions at national and international levels based on their guidance. **Lord hear us**

We pray for our own country, for all who hold offices of power and influence, that their policies may unite our nation. We pray for her majesty the Queen and pray that her Christian faith and example will wisely influence all those who seek her counsel. **Lord hear us**

We pray for all who are in need at this time; the homeless, the long-term unemployed, the abused, those suffering from addictions or who find life too much to bear. We pray for those we know who are ill and we ask that the support and care available to them is offered with compassion and love. We ask that through your church, the peace of your presence is available to all who seek it. **Lord hear us**

We also remember and trust to your care those we have loved but see no more and pray for those left behind to grieve for a while and then to continue on a lonelier journey through life.

Lord hear us

A final prayer for ourselves: -

Open our eyes Lord that we may see the wonderful world that you have entrusted to us. Open our arms Lord that we may embrace the world with all its opportunities and all its challenges. Open our minds Lord that we may know what you would have us do. AMEN

Baptism is a vow, a sacred vow of the believer to follow Christ. Just as a wedding celebrates the fusion of two hearts, baptism celebrates the union of sinner with Saviour.
- Max Lucado

BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD FAITH.

"The Church does not dispense the sacrament of baptism in order to acquire for herself an increase in membership but in order to consecrate a human being to God and to communicate to that person the divine gift of birth from God."

Baptism is rich in meaning. It suggests cleansing. When you are a disciple, you understand that you are cleansed by Christ. You understand that Christ died in your place on the cross, paying for your sins, fully forgiving you for all your wrongs. You are cleansed from guilt, and you are becoming a cleaner, healthier, more whole person.

BRIAN D. MCLAREN

If you've never been baptised, why not? It's never too late.

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