



Welcome

The Baptism of Christ

12 January 2025



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

**I Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the
ancient of days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name
we praise.**

**2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as
light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest
in might;
thy justice like mountains high
soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.**

**3 To all life thou givest, to both great
and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of
all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on
the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught
changeth thee.**

**4 Great Father of glory, pure Father
of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling
their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us
to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth
thee**

The Priest goes to the Lectern and says:

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

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

*The Priest introduces the service and then leads
the congregation in prayer:*

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy
name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*The Priest invites the congregation to seek God's
mercy and grace. We say together:*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which
all reply: **Amen**.*

*We sing the **Gloria**, which you will find on the
separate music sheet.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung*

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.

*We sit for the **first** and **second** readings.*

First Reading

Isaiah 43.1-7, read by Noel

¹Thus 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.
²When 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.
³For 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.
⁴Because 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.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I 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 –
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 8.14-17, read by Jennifer

¹⁴When the apostles at Jerusalem heard
that Samaria had accepted the word of
God, they sent Peter and John to them.
¹⁵The 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).
¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on
them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God**

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and turn towards
the Gospel book*

**I Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**2 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**3 Take my will, and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

All remain standing (if able) as the Gospel is read

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
 Jesus Christ according to *Luke*
 (3.15-17,21-22)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.) ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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.'

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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.'

At the end:

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

*We sit for the **Sermon**
We stand to say the **Creed***

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen
We believe in One Lord Jesus Christ
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

*The **Prayers of Intercession** follow*

At the end:

Priest Merciful Father,
**All accept these prayers for
 the sake of your Son, our
 Saviour, Jesus Christ,
 Amen.**

*The Priest introduces the **Peace**:*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with
you always
All And also with you
Priest Let us offer one another a
sign of peace.

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for
the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken
during the **hymn**. You may prefer to donate by
card, at the back of church*

**1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.**

**2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.**

**3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.**

**4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.**

Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
all creation. Through your
goodness we have this bread
to offer, which earth has
given and human hands have
made. It will become for us
the bread of life.

All
Priest **Blessed be God for ever**
Blessed are you Lord God of

all creation. Through your
goodness we have this wine
to offer. Fruit of the vine and
work of human hands, it will
become our spiritual drink

All
Priest **Blessed be God for ever**
Pray my sisters and brothers
that our sacrifice may be
acceptable to God the
Almighty Father

All
**May the Lord accept the
sacrifice at your hand, for
the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and
the good of all his Church.**

*The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which
we reply **Amen***

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you.
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

**All It is right to give thanks
and praise...**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
the **Sanctus** and **Benedictus** from the music
sheet.*

*The **Eucharistic Prayer** continues until...*

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
**All: Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until

Priest ...for ever and ever

All: Amen

The Priest invites us to 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**

Priest We break this bread to share
in the body of Christ

**All Though we are many we
are one body, because we
all share in one bread**

*We sing the **Agnus Dei** from the music sheet.*

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the
world, blessed are those who
are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

*The congregation approaches the Altar steps to
receive **Communion**.*

*All those who are in good standing with their
own Church are invited to receive Communion.*

*Those who prefer to ask for a Blessing are
invited to bow their heads at the Altar rail or
bring this booklet as a sign to the Priest.*

**Please keep absolute silence during
Communion**

*We remain seated to sing the **hymn***

**1 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
taught by thee, we covet most,
of thy gifts at Pentecost,
holy, heavenly love.**

**2 Love is kind, and suffers long,
love is meek and thinks no wrong,
love than death itself more strong;
therefore give us love.**

**3 Prophecy will fade away,
melting in the light of day;
love will ever with us stay;
therefore give us love.**

**4 Faith will vanish into sight;
hope be emptied in delight;
love in heaven will shine more
bright;
therefore give us love.**

**5 Faith and hope and love we see
joining hand in hand agree;
but the greatest of the three,
and the best, is love.**

Post Communion Prayers:

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened
the heavens and revealed yourself as
Father in the baptism of Jesus your
beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our
rebirth through the waters of the new
creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We say together:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls
and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Any Banns of marriage and notices are given.

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

*The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen***

*We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West*

*End for the **dismissal***

**I We have a gospel to proclaim
Good news for all in all the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**2 Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**3 Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved, His life He gave.**

**4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and
hell That we might share His
victory.**

**5 Tell of His reign at God's right
hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.**

**6 Now we rejoice to name Him
King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

‘WHAT’S ON’ THIS WEEK

Today

4pm Choral Evensong, *with the choir of St. Paul’s*

Tuesday 14 January

10.30am Sing Space Choir

Wednesday 15 January

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – all welcome

Thursday 16 January

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Friday 17 January

1pm Lunchtime Concert

4pm Memorial Service for the late Andrew Payne RIP

Saturday 18 January

6.30pm & 8.30pm Musicals by Candlelight **

Sunday 19 January 2025

11.00 Parish Sung Eucharist, *for the Second Sunday of Epiphany*

3pm Memorial Service for the late Frank Thompson RIP

**** Tickets for all paid events may be obtained from**

www.actorschurch.org