

# St George, Stalybridge

## The Baptism of Children

*The minister welcomes everyone to the Service and then 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.*

### Introduction

*The minister introduces the service*  
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 Baptism Prayer or Collect

*The minister introduces following prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

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. Amen.

### Gospel Reading

### The Presentation

*Those to be baptized are presented (parents and godparents standing at the front with them). The minister says to the whole congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *this child/these children* and uphold *them* in their new life in Christ?  
*All With the help of God, we will.*

*The minister then says to the parents and godparents*

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *this child/these children* with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?  
*All With the help of God, we will.*

In baptism *this child/these children* begin their journey in faith. You speak for *them* today. Will you care for *them*, and help *them* to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

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

### The Promise or Decision

*The Easter candle is lit. The minister says to the parents and godparents*  
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 I ask:

	Do you turn to Christ?
<i>Parents &amp; godparents</i>	<b>I turn to Christ.</b>
	Do you repent of your sins?
<i>Parents &amp; godparents</i>	<b>I repent of my sins.</b>
	Do you renounce evil?
<i>Parents &amp; godparents</i>	<b>I renounce evil.</b>

### Signing with the Cross

*The minister makes the sign of the cross using holy oil on the forehead of each candidate, saying*

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

*All Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.*

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. Amen.

### Prayer over the Water

*The minister, with the children, parents and godparents gather at the font. The minister stands before the water of baptism and says*

*All Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
who keeps his promise for ever.*

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

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.  
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

*All Lord of life,  
renew your creation.*

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection, through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Lord of life,  
*All* **renew your creation.**

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Lord of life,  
*All* **renew your creation.**

## **We State our Belief**

*The minister says to the congregation*

Let us affirm, together with these who are 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?  
*All* **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?  
*All* **I believe and trust in him.**

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?  
*All* **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
*All* **This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## **Baptism**

*The minister pours water on each child, saying*

*N.* I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 Welcome And Peace**

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

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

*The congregation greet the newly baptized with  
applause.*

*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.**

## **Prayers**

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 home 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. Amen.

God of grace and life, in your love you have given us a place among your people; keep us faithful to our baptism, and prepare us for that glorious day when the whole creation will be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The minister may add other prayers as appropriate*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*All* **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.**

## **The Blessing**

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

*The minister or another person gives a lighted candle to each of the newly baptized. The minister says*

God has delivered us from the dominion 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.

*All* **Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.  
*All* **Thanks be to God**