

A Liturgy of the Word - Baptism of Christ
8 January 2023

The video of the service or the sermon can be viewed on the website, YouTube or Facebook

Hymn

Christ is the world's light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's peace, he and none other;
no one can serve him and despise his brother.
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life, he and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.
He who redeemed us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high!

Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in man my brother:
Glory to God on high!



Call to Worship

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Today we praise God in words originally written by an early Xhosa speaking Christian.

You are the great God – he who is in heaven
You are the creator of Life, you make the regions above.
You are the hunter who hunts for souls.
You are the leader who goes before us.
You are he whose hands are with wounds.
You are he whose feet are with wounds
You are he whose blood is a trickling stream,
You are he whose blood was spilled for us.

The Penitence

In the presence of this mighty God, we recognise what Jesus did for us, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

We confess to our wrong thoughts, and words. Although we may have kept quiet, our thoughts have not been those pleasing to God. We have sinned in our hearts

Lord, have mercy

We confess that our deeds have been sinful. We have taken the easy way out, and not taken the trouble to do things properly. We have manipulated situations to benefit ourselves and lied to ourselves and to others about our true intentions. We have been dishonest, and prided ourselves on getting away with things we should not have done in the first place.

Christ, have mercy

We confess that we have sat back and let evil have its way. We have not spoken up when we should have. We have let things slide so that others were inconvenienced. We have not kept our promises and have let down those who love and trust us.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

God who sent God's Son into the world to save sinners, hears all our prayers. In the name of Jesus, those of you who truly repent and are resolved to live more truly according to the life modelled by Christ, you are forgiven of your sins. Know that you are cleansed and made whole, in the power of the Holy Spirit, go forth, sin no more, and live as a whole member of the body of Christ.

Amen

The Collect

**Creator God, our soul's delight,
your voice thunders over the waters,
liberating the future from the past:
speak your affirming word
that we may share in the baptism of Jesus Christ,
drink from his cup and serve the world in his name;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.**

Amen



The Word of God

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

The Sermon

The Revd Margaret Place

Baptismal Creed

**I believe and trust in God the Father
who made the world.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ
Who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God.**

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

Amen



Prayers

Let us pray for all people who need our prayers.

We thank you Lord for a new working year. Be with those who are travelling either home from holidays or transporting goods across our land to give us access to what we need. Give them insight as to possible dangers, keep them alert and bring them home safely.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We ask your blessing on schools, colleges and universities as they begin a new academic year. Let them be sources of inspiration and learning, and may all students and learners be developed and realise their full potential.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We bring before you those who are sick. The chronically ill who feel there is no hope, the acutely ill whose lives are on hold at the moment, and those struggling with mental health after the long period of Covid. Bring healing to all, and may they be aware of your loving presence which stands alongside them as they face their current struggles.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We ask your blessing on the government of our land -national, provincial, and municipal. Help them be ethical in their management of our affairs, give them insight as they struggle with past failures, and may we all live in peace, prosperity, and security under its rule.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Bless our church, as we, under the leadership of Steve our bishop, Thabo our Metropolitan, and all clergy, lay leaders and church administrators everywhere, try to make the body of Christ a reality in our world. May we be conscientious in prayer and Bible reading and be ever mindful of our calling of witnessing to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

All these prayers we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**



Final Blessing

In this season of Epiphany, may the light of Christ shine in your hearts and minds, may it illumine our path as we follow in Christ's footsteps; and may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and always.

Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*



Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
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CREDITS

Liturgy

The Xhosa "Gloria" is taken from "The Lion Prayer Collection" compiled by Mary Batchelor 1992, revised version published in 1996.

Music

Christ is the world's light
The University of Notre Dame Folk Choir directed by Steven C. Warner Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame - Indiana (2014)
<https://youtu.be/UOv2dwLrYW4?t=30>

Great is thy faithfulness

Author: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)
Performed by 300 Voice Mass Choir for Classic Hymns album "Lead Kindly Light"
Conductor: Samuel Grubb Piano: Edwin Roy
Recorded live at St Andrews Church The Kirk in 2009.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDrACb56AmY>