

To Celebrate the Feast Day of St Nicholas and the Baptism of Helena Sbaraini Ioris



**On Sunday 5th December 2021
at 9am
Including Holy Communion and the
collection of Christmas Gifts**



Helena Sbaraini Ioris

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

OPENING SONG Long ago prophets knew CP58

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light the second candle which reminds us of the prophets, who foretold the birth of Jesus, and whose spoken words are part of God's written word, the Bible.

**Help us, Oh Lord
Eagerly to hear and
Act on Your word.
Remind us of Your
Immense love
Now revealed in the
Good News of Jesus in the Gospel.**

GATHERING RESPONSE

Oh come let us sing out to the Lord:
Let us shout in triumph to the God of our salvation

The sea is his and he made it:
His hand moulded the dry land

Come let us worship and bow down:
And kneel before the Lord our maker.

**Heavenly Father, we thank you
That we can come this morning and worship you.
Help us to sing your praise,
Confess our sins, hear your word
and bring our prayers to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

THE COLLECT

Almighty God by the power of the 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.

BIBLE READING: Mark 10: 13-16 **Jesus Blesses Little Children**

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

SHORT REFLECTION

Led by Rev'd Skye Denno

BAPTISM – THE PRESENTATION AND DECLARATIONS

Helena, and her Parents and godparents come to the front of the church
The president addresses the whole congregation

Today we thank God for Helena
who has come to be baptised.
Christ welcomes you into His Church.

Will you promise to support Helena
as she begins her journey of faith
We will.

The president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents of Helena
As we trust God for Helena's growth in faith,
Will you all promise to care for her,
pray for her,
and encourage and support her to follow Christ?
We will.

*A large candle may be lit.
The president addresses Helena, parents, godparents and the whole congregation*

In baptism, God calls us to new life.
We die with Christ to all that destroys,
and rise to live with him for ever.

Therefore I ask:
Do you reject evil?
I reject evil.

And all its many forms?
And all its many forms.

And all its empty promises?
And all its empty promises.

The candidates, together with Helena parents and godparents, may now turn to face the large 'Paschal' Candle.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.

And put your trust in Him?
And put my trust in Him.

And promise to follow Him for ever?
And promise to follow Him for ever.

*The minister makes the sign of the cross on Helena's forehead, saying
Helena, Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of His cross.*

The minister invites parents, godparents to sign Helena with the cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are His for ever!

Stand bravely with him.

Oppose the power of evil,

And remain his faithful disciple to the end of your life.

Helena 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.

We move to the Baptismal font

Prayer over the Water

The minister stands before the water of baptism and says

We praise you, loving Father,

for the gift of your Son Jesus.

On him you poured your Spirit

at his baptism in the River Jordan.

He sent his followers

to baptise all who turn to him.

And so, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptised in it

may be cleansed in the water of life,

filled with your Spirit

and know themselves as your children,

safe in Christ for ever.

Amen.

Profession of Faith *The minister addresses the whole congregation*

Let us affirm, together with Helena who is being baptised, 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?

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?

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?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

Baptism

Helena Sbaraini Ioris,
I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Helena, 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.

Everyone returns to their seats.

Parents, godparents and Helena stay at the front of the church

Giving of a Lighted Candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

Helena you have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Helena by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

*Helena's parent place a leaf on the Baptismal tree - symbolising her eternal place in God's home and church family
Parents, godparents and Helena return to their seats for the prayers.*

PRAYERS LED BY NEIL

We say the Lord's Prayer together

**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.**

WE SHARE THE PEACE

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN - Colours of Day

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The Light of the world is risen again,
the people of darkness are needing our friend.
So light up the fire . . .

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
the darkness has come, the sun came to die,
the evening draws on, the sun disappears,
but Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.
So light up the fire . . .

Words and music by Sue McClellan
Words and music by John Paculabo
Words and music by Keith Rycroft

THE COMMUNION

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus
And with all those who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth
in which Christ became incarnate.
So, come to this table, you who have much faith
And you who would like to have more;
You who have been to this sacrament often,
And you who have not been for a long time;
You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed.
Come. It is Christ himself who invites us to meet him here now.

Blessed are you, O God
For you have brought forth bread from the earth.

Blessed are you, O God,
For you have created the fruit of the vine

**In the beginning you watered the earth
That all might have food and drink.**

You gave to your servant Sarah
Bread to strengthen her family on their journey,
And wine to make them glad.

**You called Moses and his people out of bondage
And refreshed them with food in the wilderness.**
You gave Mary and Joseph their daily bread to share.
**And here at your table
You offer us bread and wine for the journey
To nourish us as sons and daughters.**

And so with all our sisters and brothers,
Before us and beside us, near and far.
We join in the song of your unending greatness:
**Holy, holy holy, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Glory be to you, O God most high.**

Among friends, gathered round a table
Jesus took bread, and, having blessed it,
He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying,
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup of wine
And gave you thanks. He gave it to them saying,
Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant,
Which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

So, now, following Jesus' example,
We take this bread and this wine;
the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us.

And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,
let us also celebrate God's goodness

Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now,
As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,
Breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,
That they may be heaven's food for us.
Renewing, sustaining and making us whole,
That we may be your body on earth,
Loving and caring in the world.

Look, the bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world.
Here is Christ, coming to us in bread and wine
The gifts of God for the people of God.

(Come forward to receive bread and wine or a Blessing)

Prayer after Communion

**Holy God, we have seen with our eyes
And touched with our hands the bread of life:
Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each
other,
Through Jesus Christ.
Amen**

God of joy and cheer, we thank you for your servant, the good bishop
Nicholas.
In loving the poor, he showed us your kindness; in caring for your chil-
dren, he revealed your love.
Make us thoughtful without need of reward so that we, too, may be good
followers of Jesus.
Amen

GIFT COLLECTION - hold up your christmas gift

For the gift of each person here.
We give thanks.
For the capacity to care for and to share with those in need.

We give thanks.

For a holiday season of joy, hope, and peace.

We give thanks.

The Blessings

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
be with you and all those you love now and always. **Amen**

