

**Welcome to St Paul's
for a Service of the Word
with Christingle and Baptism
Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas
1st February 2026**

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you,
and also with you.

Give me joy in my heart

Prayer of preparation

**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.**

Invitation to confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

cf Titus 2.11-14

Confession

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *you your sins*
and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

The Collect is said and the people respond:
Amen.

Refiner's Fire

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.22–40

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon

During the sermon, Christingles will be made. We will light them later in the service.

Shine Jesus Shine

Baptism of Daniel, Michael and Lucy

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.

Presentation of the Candidates

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.

Do not stop them'.

We thank God for Daniel, Michael and Lucy who have come to be baptised today.

Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

Daniel, do you wish to be baptised?

I do.

Michael, do you wish to be baptised?

I do.

Lucy, do you wish to be baptised?

I do.

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 these children

and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

God knows each of us by name

and we are his.

Parents and godparents,

you speak for these children today.

Will you pray for them,

and help them to follow Christ?

We will.

The Decision

We all wander far from God
and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us
and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.

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.

Do you turn to Christ?

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.

Profession of Faith

Let us affirm, together with these children who are 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.**

Prayer over the water

We praise you, loving Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptised in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers
to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptised in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever.

Amen

Baptism

[Daniel, Michael, Lucy] is this your faith?

This is my faith

[Daniel, Michael, Lucy] I baptise you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Signing with the Cross

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.
Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him
against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.
May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.
Amen.**

Commission

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 Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
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.**

My Lighthouse

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used:
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Sharing of Lighted Candles

*The congregation will line up around the church and will light each other's
Christingles*

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.

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

Do not be afraid

Notices

There is a plate at the back of church as you leave, with envelopes if you prefer to make your gift anonymous, or you can make an online donation via the QR code at the back of church.

The Blessing

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins,
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;
and the blessing ...

This little light of mine

The Dismissal

One in heart and one in mind,
and empowered by the Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

Exit Music

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