



St Stephen with St John
Westminster
www.sswsj.org

The Order for
Holy Communion
during Advent
with the Baptism of
Capri Rose Herrick

Prayer over the Water

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

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.

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.

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 for ever
in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

A verse of the Advent Prose is sung by the Choir (NEH 501). The Choir sings before the verse, and the congregation may respond after the verse:

Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Entrance Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew

NEH 10

The Gathering

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

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

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things
now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ
let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion,
O Lord, and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The young people are invited to gather around the advent wreath and a verse is sung and we respond with the chorus:

**Christmas is coming
The Church is glad to sing
And let the Advent Candles
Brightly burn in a ring.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Romans 16.25-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: No wind at the window

Iona: IK&LS

1. **No wind at the window, no knock on the door
No light from the lamp stand, no foot on the floor
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear
Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear**
2. **Oh, Mary, Oh, Mary don't hide from my face
Be glad that you're favoured and filled with God's grace
The time for redeeming the world has begun
And you are requested to mother God's son**
3. **This child must be born that the Kingdom might come
Salvation for many, destruction for some
Both end and beginning, both message and sign
Both victor and victim, both yours and divine**
4. **No payment was promised, no promises made
No wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess
Replied with conviction, "tell God I say yes."**

Gospel Reading: Luke 1. 26-38

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Presentation of the Candidate

The minister addresses 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 Capri, and uphold her in her life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The minister then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Capri with joy. Today we are trusting God for her growth in faith. Will you pray for her, draw her by your example into the community of faith and walk with her in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism Capri begins her journey in faith.

You speak for her today.

Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The minister addresses the parents, godparents and Capri for baptism

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 reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

The minister makes the sign of the cross on Capri's forehead, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

The minister may invite the parents and godparents to sign Capri with the sign of the cross

The minister says to them

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**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.

Profession of Faith

The minister addresses the whole congregation

Sisters and brothers,
I ask you to profess together with Capri,
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Processional

during which the Baptismal party moves to the Font

All sing together:

We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
Earth and heaven sprang to being,
All created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
Virgin born, the child of Mary
Upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ who on the cross forsaken,
Like a lamb to slaughter led,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
He descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
Heaven's king to rule and reign,
To the Father's side ascended
Till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;
In one church, below, above:
Saints of God in one communion,
One in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
We shall rise with him in glory
To the life that knows no end.

(tune Blaenwern NEH 408)

The Baptism

The minister pours water on Capri, saying

Capri Rose Herrick, I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The minister then prays for Capri, saying

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 Peace

The clergy, parents, godparents and the newly baptised then face the congregation

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

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Offertory Hymn: Sing we of the blessed mother

NEH 185

Offering is available online at [CAF Donate](#), through our Contactless Donation Box or the cash donation box by the North Door at the end of the service.

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.
Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.
Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
Amen. Lord, we believe.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup 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.
Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Stephen, John and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;
**by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

As we await the coming of God's kingdom we pray

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

Music during communion: *Ave Maria from op. 80*

Max Reger

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Notices

Giving of a lighted candle

Receive this light.

When Capri has received a candle, 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.

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

The Blessing and Dismissal

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 ...

The ministers, Capri and her parents depart

Final Hymn: Tell out my soul

NEH 186

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ voluntary: Toccata sur "Ave Maris Stella"

Flor Peeters

Christmas Services 2023 at St Stephen's, Rochester Row

Christmas Eve
24th December

5.00pm
11.00pm

Children's Crib Service
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
25th December

10.00am

Family Eucharist

Boxing Day
26th December

10.00am
3.00pm

on The Feast of St Stephen
Festival Patronal Eucharist
Patronal Tea@3

*The Vicar and community
of St Stephen's wish you
a joyous Christmas
and a very happy New Year!*

Registered Charity No. 1132179

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