

# The United Benefice of **Saint Aidan & Saint Leonard**

Bamber Bridge

Walton-le-Dale

*“Making Disciples – Transforming Lives”*

## **The Baptism of Christ**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2021



And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

### **Gathering**

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

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.  
**From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.  
**The Lord bless you.**

## Confession

Because God was merciful, he saved us through the water of rebirth and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism.

Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises by confessing our sins in penitence.

*Titus 3.5*

*A moment of silent reflection as we call to mind our sins...*

We have broken the pledges of our baptism, and failed to be your disciples.

From all our sins, O Lord:

**wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Though we are saved by Christ and dead to sin through the deep waters of death, we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.

From all our sins, O Lord:

**wash us, and we shall be clean.**

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember your repeated forgiveness of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

**wash us, and we shall be clean.**

## Absolution

‘Come forward, you who are thirsty, receive the water of life, the free gift to all who desire it.’

+ May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our* sins, and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Gloria

Sung at the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Mike Anderson’s setting

## Collect

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh, let us pray.

*A moment of silence is kept.*

Eternal Father,

who at the baptism of Jesus

revealed him to be your Son,

anointing him with the Holy Spirit:

grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,

that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis includes creation stories drawn from two different sources. The authors of the first creation story emphasize the goodness of God's creation, and how God created the orderly world out of chaos, and gave humans a place of honour.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

1.1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*In the first verses of this gospel, Mark quotes an Old Testament passage prophesying that God will send a messenger to prepare the way for Christ. The good news of Jesus Christ begins with John's call to repentance.*

**Alleluia, alleluia,**

**Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.**

*cf 1 Timothy 3.16*

**Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

1.4-11

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Homily

## Profession of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

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

## Reflection Song

'Be not afraid' Bob Dufford SJ

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Peace

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

*cf 2 Corinthians 1.22*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer over the Gifts

Open the heavens, Lord our God,

and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts.

May we who are baptized into Christ be ready to share his cup of suffering  
and strengthened to serve him for ever.

**Amen.**

### 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.**

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
You celebrated your new gift of baptism  
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.  
Your voice was heard from heaven  
to awaken faith in the presence among us  
of your Word made flesh.  
Your Spirit was seen as a dove,  
revealing Jesus as your servant,  
and anointing him with the oil of gladness  
to preach the good news to the poor.  
Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,  
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven  
for ever 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the + body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends,  
and taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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, Father, as we remember all that Jesus did,  
we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Leonard, St Aidan, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*A moment of silent prayer precedes...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 saying:*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

**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.**

## **Invitation to 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.**

The Body of Christ.

**Amen.**

# Communion Music

'Eat this bread, drink this cup'      Taizé

## Communion Prayer

My Jesus, my King,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

## Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

*A moment of silence is kept.*

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have nourished us with your Word and Sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

## Blessing

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light,  
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.  
**Amen.**

May God the Son,  
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,  
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.  
**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,  
who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,  
pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

**Amen.**

and the blessing of almighty God + the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

We have come to Christ, the living water.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen!**

## **Hymn**

'We shall draw water joyfully'

Paul Inwood