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Order of Service

Sunday 18th February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Baptism of Alice Fenton



Welcome to St Paul's!

This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
The Organ is played by: **Mr Lee Michael Walton**

It is a joy to welcome you to this service!

If you do not attend a church elsewhere, we invite you to join with us in our Sunday worship and other activities – see www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

Feel free to spend time before worship for quiet preparation, especially once the music begins. We light a candle during worship to remind us of Christ's message of peace.

The Reformed Church recognises God's Word as its supreme authority and **you are asked to stand as the Bible is brought in** at the start of worship, **and again as the Bible is taken out after the blessing.**

Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need to use the Hearing Loop.

Church Notices

Call to Worship

Lighting of Peace Candle

WE SING: 'BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD'

the Holy one, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in Him no sin is found -
we stand on Holy ground
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy one is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with Holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight -
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him -
in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Words: David J. Evans

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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 Forever and ever. Amen

Reading: Mark 1: 9-15

(Pg.812)

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Temptation of Jesus

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

That bird is everywhere!

Baptism of Alice Fenton

Introduction & Lighting of Baptismal Candle

The Lord is here.

HIS SPIRIT IS WITH US.

Jesus Christ came that we might have life.

AND HAVE IT IN ALL ITS FULLNESS.

...

Jesus Christ, Light of the World

MAY WE BLAZE IN THE DARKNESS

WITH YOUR UNQUENCHABLE FIRE.

The Affirmations

Pouring of Water and Prayer

...may it be for Alice the water of new birth.

BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER.

The Baptism & Blessing

WE SING: 420 THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Promises

(The Parents and Godparents make promises)

By the congregation *(Please stand, as you are able)*

*As a community of faith, representing the whole Church.
Do you welcome Alice and promise to share with her
What you yourselves have received,
The gift of God's love in Christ?*

WE DO, WITH GOD'S HELP

Presentation

*...enjoy God's story
May it inspire you on your way
As you shine as Christ's light to the world.*

ALLELUIA! AMEN!

(Our young people remind all of us of our Baptism)

WE SING: 'HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HAND'
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.

**He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

**He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

Words: African-American trad.

The Grace

**THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE LOVE OF GOD
AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BE WITH US ALL, NOW AND FOREVER, AMEN**

Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17 (Pg.6)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹² God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see

it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷ God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Baptism to Wilderness

WE SING: CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION

(Tune: 355 'Cross of Jesus')

**Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.**

**Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage -
channel to a life made new.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.**

**Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.**

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan

Prayers for Others - 'Hand Prayers'

Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: 489 BE THOU MY VISION

Sending Forth & Blessing

You are welcome to our time of refreshments and conversation in the hall, after this service!

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

'London Air Ambulance' with Tony G

Tuesday 20th February 10:15am

United Prayer Time - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 / Password: 1111

Every Saturday, 8am

Next Sunday Worship

led by Rev'd Bryn Thomas

Sunday 25th February 2024, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website
www.stpaulsurc.org.uk / www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc



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