



Putnoe Heights Church



A Church of England
Methodist Church Partnership

Family Service with Baptism
Theme: Celebrating God's Creation

Welcome

Opening Verse of Scripture

I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. Genesis Chapter 9:15

Opening Prayer

Holy Creator, as we come together we thank you for the fellowship of other creatures. To celebrate their God-given lives and to pray for compassionate hearts, so that we may care for them and for all your creation.

Minister: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

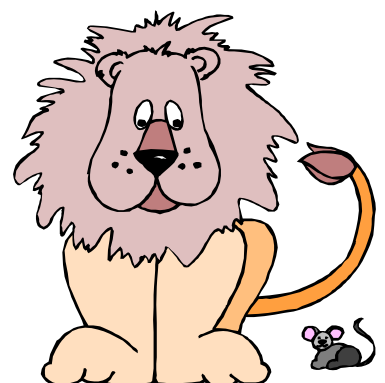
All: And God said 'Let the waters teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky'

Minister: So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind

All: And God saw that it was good

*The righteous care for their animals,
but the wicked are cruel*

Proverbs 12:10



Hymn

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

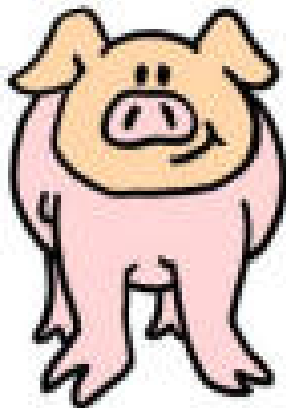
Gracious God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, pleasures pure and undefiled:

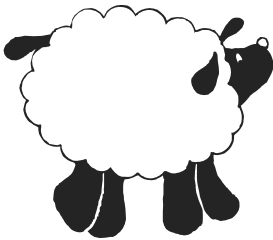
For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven.



Prayer (we say together)

**Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe!
Through your Son, Jesus, the eternal Word,
You have created all things:
Light and darkness, wind and sea
Sun, moon and stars, Plants and living creatures.
Through your Son, our Saviour,
You have reconciled all things to yourself
Everything in heaven and everything on earth**

**Through your Son, the Servant King,
You have given us a share in your rule,
And called us to be His body here on earth,
His ambassadors of love.
Lord of Creation, we worship and adore you**



**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

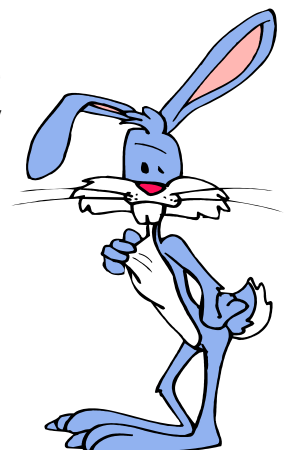
Confession

O God whose Name is Love, you created this world and all that is in it. We ask you to look with compassion and mercy upon us all. Look upon your whole creation, O God, in all its sufferings. Sustain your world and protect your animal creatures from all the ravages of war and pollution.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Look upon humankind, O God, your supreme creation now fallen from your perfect will. Forgive us our selfishness, greed and cruelty and lead us gently back into your ways of love. Transform our hearts until they truly reflect the selfless compassion shown to us by your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, whose love was perfect and who loved to the end that he died to give us our salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer



Change our hearts Lord whenever we are cold to the plight of animals who are used with cruelty and inspire those who govern and those in authority to legislate with compassion and justice for the good of all creation.



Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Forgive us Lord when we fail to capture the vision of your whole creation united in worship before your eternal throne. And give us O God, true penitence to raise your suffering creatures before you for your justice, mercy and blessing.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

The minister will declare the words of forgiveness

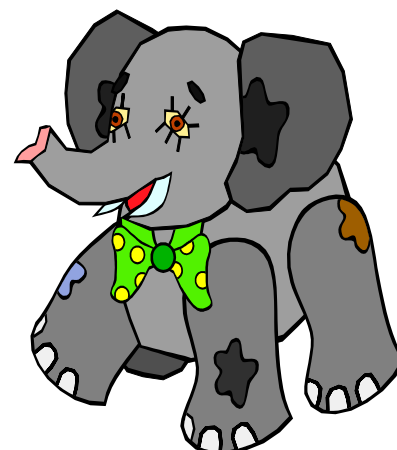
Hymn

If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee,
But I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.

*For you gave me a heart, and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.*

If I were an elephant, I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo, you know I'd hop right up to you.
And if I were an octopus, I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks,
But I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.

If I were a wiggly worm, I'd thank you Lord
that I could squirm.
And if I were a billy goat, I'd thank you Lord
for my strong throat.
And if I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear, I'd thank you
Lord for my fuzzy wuzzy hair,
But I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.



The Offering

Let every creature in heaven, on earth, in the sea and in the depths, give praise and glory honour and blessing to you who suffered and gave so much for us. You have given us so many good things, our power and our strength. Accept our lives and money and use them to give glory to you. Amen.

The Baptism

We bring *these children* whom God has entrusted to us and claim for *them* all that Christ has won for us. Christ loves *them* and is ready to receive *them* with the arms of his mercy and to give *them* the blessing of eternal life. Children are brought to be baptized with water as a sign of the new life in Christ and to be made members of God's family the Church.

The Water is Blessed

Almighty God whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the River Jordan:

we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us. Bless this water that your *servants* who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send Your Holy Spirit upon *them* to bring *them* to new birth in the family of your Church, and raise *them* with Christ to full and eternal life. For all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Promises of the Church

Congregation, please stand

Members of the Body of Christ, who are now in his name to receive *these children*, will you so maintain the common life of worship and service that *they* and all children in this church may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?



With God's help, we will

Congregation say

Heavenly Father, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround *these children* with your love; protect *them* from evil; fill *them* with your Holy Spirit and receive *them* into the family of your church; that *they* may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love. Amen.

The Parents and Godparents make Promises

Parents and godparents of the children will be invited to gather around the font. Please bring with you your service sheets.

The minister says to the parents and godparents

Those who bring children to be baptized must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. It is your duty to bring up this child to fight against evil and to follow Christ. Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourselves and for this child.

Minister

Do you turn to Christ?

Parents and godparents

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

The minister says to the parents:

Do you then present your child to be baptized?

Parents please respond

We do

The minister takes the child to be baptised and says:

(Name) I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
I sign with the cross, the sign of Christ.
Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of
Christ crucified.



The minister will invite the congregation to say:

Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and continue his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your life.

The Giving Of A Lighted Candle

The parents and children who have been baptised are asked to come forward and a lighted candle is given to each child

The minister says,

Receive this light...this is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

The congregation will be invited to respond:

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

The Welcome

Representing the whole Church we all welcome the newly baptized children.

Minister: God has received you by baptism into his Church...

All say:

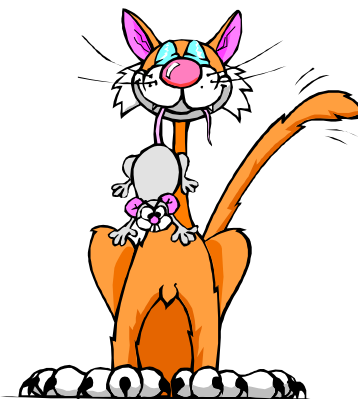
We welcome you into the Lord's family.

We are members together of the Body of Christ:

We are children of the same heavenly Father:

We are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God.

We welcome you.



Hymn

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

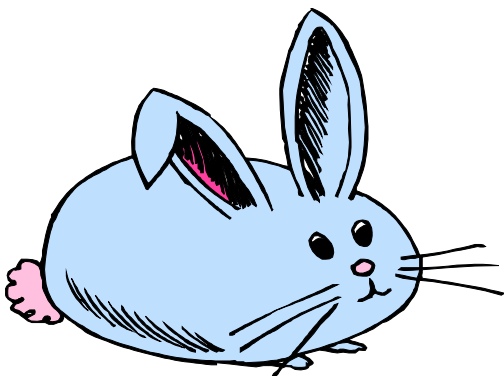
Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:

Bible Readings



○ Lord you save both humans
and animals

Psalm 36:6

Hymn

Who put the colours in the rainbow? Who put the salt into the sea?
Who put cold into the snowflake? Who made you and me?
Who put the hump upon the camel? Who put the neck on the giraffe?
Who put the tail upon the monkey? Who made hyenas laugh?
Who made whales and snails and quails?
Who made dogs and hogs and frogs?
Who made rats and bats and cats?
Who made ev'rything?

Who put the gold into the sunshine? Who put the sparkle in the stars?
Who put the silver in the moonlight? Who made Earth and Mars?
Who put the scent into the roses? Who taught the honey bee to dance?
Who put the tree inside the acorn? It surely can't be chance!
Who made seas and leaves and trees?
Who made snow and winds that blow?
Who made streams and rivers flow?
GOD MADE ALL OF THESE!

Sermon

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father which 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.

**Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**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.



Hymn

The God who made us human, is the God who made the sea,
And the DNA and atom, and the rose and chimpanzee,
and to care for all his creatures, 'til they share our liberty,
he's chosen you and me.

Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah!
Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! He's chosen you and me!

So let us not abuse them, or confuse them in their ways
of reflecting back his glory, or of living lives of praise.
For all things know their Maker, and the very stones could raise
his cries of victory.

Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah!
Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! His cries of victory!

And a day is swifly coming, when the floods will clap their hands
and the trees will start rejoicing, when Christ comes to judge the lands.
And his judgement will be final - earth will bow to his commands.
Amen - so let it be!

Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah!
Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! Amen - so let it be!

Then, Lord, forgive our trespasses, and when you come again,
may you find us being faithful, in the ways that you ordain.
So that we may see their happiness, and happy may remain
for all eternity!

Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah!
Sing Hosannah! Alleluiah! for all eternity!

Final Prayer

**Blessed are you, Lord God, for all living creation and all creatures
you have made. You keep them in your care and not one is lost
without your knowing. This world glorifies you and speaks to us
of your beauty and love- teach us to respect it. May we learn to
cherish all creatures for they are your gift to us and through them
may we come to know you better and praise you, their Creator.
This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing of the people

May Christ who gathers into his love
all things in heaven and on earth,
give you his peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

The Blessing of the animals

May Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit,
bless these animals, protect them
from all thoughtlessness and cruelty,
that with all creation they may praise
and exalt Him for ever.

Amen



The reason why God's servants love
(God's) creatures so deeply is that they
realize how deeply Christ loves them.
And it is the very character of love to
love what is loved by those we love.

St Catherine of Siena

Prayers for use at Home

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for all that are overworked and underfed and cruelly treated; for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat against their bars; for any that are haunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that are in pain or dying; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us ourselves to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessing of the merciful. For the sake of thy Son the tender hearted, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, who has taught us that without our Father in heaven no sparrow falls to the ground, help us to be very kind to animals, and to our pets. May we remember that you will one day ask us if we have been good to them. Bless us as we take care of them; for your mercy's sake.

He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast;
He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small,
For the dear God who loveth us
He made and loveth all.

William Blake 1757-1827