



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

Mothering Sunday Eucharist

with Holy Baptism of Agnes Olivia Gardner
and Martin William Gardner.

10.00am
10th March 2024

Welcome to Lancaster Priory

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

Mothering Sunday is a time to celebrate our mother churches, those people and places which have nurtured our faith. But for many this time comes with painful associations with motherhood, feelings of inadequacy or loss. Yet in Christ, we are given both comfort and family.

We have come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God's help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, where we have failed to nurture each other.

In our service today we welcome cousins Agnes Olivia Gardner and Martin William Gardner and their family and friends.

This Sunday is also Women Composers Sunday and so we feature some music composed by our director of Music *Rebekah Okpoti* and other women, as well as singing a version of the Magnificat for our final hymn – the famous song sung by Mary the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:46-55).

Throughout this booklet you will find instructions regarding posture (sit and stand), these capture what is normal for our congregation but are not intended to be restrictive for those who may need to sit or indeed not sit for too long.

Notices are given at before the service, please see the notice sheet for more information.

Refreshments are served at the back of church following this service every week. Please join us.

))) CONTACTLESS CARD DONATIONS STATION—you can donate to the Priory using the contact-less card reader which stands beside the door. Alternatively you can give online via GiveaLittle using this QR Code.



Acknowledgements

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The Gathering

We stand. The organ plays as the servers, choir and clergy process, with the Baptism Family, to the font at the west end of the Priory. Please turn to face the font.

The Greeting *The president introduces the celebration.*

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

Presentation of the Candidates

The president presents the candidates for baptism and then addresses the congregation

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for Agnes Olivia and Martin William who have come for baptism today. Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church. So I ask you all: Will you support them as they begin their journey of faith?

We will.

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family? **We will.**

The president then addresses the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and godparents, you speak for Agnes and Martin today. Will you pray for them, and help them to follow Christ? **We will.**

Processional Hymn (NEH 440)

The Baptism Family follow the procession of servers, choir and clergy and return to their seats, the Mothering Sunday Flowers are presented at the altar. We all face the altar and it is censed.

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear,
brothers and sisters draw near,
praise him in glad adoration.**

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wonderously reigneth
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
All that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
ponder anew
All the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord! O Let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for ay we adore him!

Joachim Neander 1650-80
Tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78

Young Church and their leaders gather at the front and the president prays with them before they go to their activities.

Prayers of Penitence *A minister leads the confession*

Let us call to mind our failure to value the love of others
and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Silence is kept.

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution *The priest prays*

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

The president says 'Let us pray' and silence is kept

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 1 Samuel 1: 20-end

Please sit.

A reading from the book of Samuel.

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'

She left him there for the Lord.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of St Anselm

Refrain: Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us,
in your love and tenderness remake us.

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. *Refrain*

Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement. *Refrain*

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us. *Refrain*

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy. *Refrain*

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. *Refrain*

Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous:
Lord Jesus, with love and tenderness remake us. *Refrain*

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us. *Refrain*

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand.

A cantor sings the acclamation and we join with the refrain at the end.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Jesus, like a mother you gather
your people to you. You are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Gospel Reading John 19: 25b-27

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.



This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Gift

A copy of a children's book, a gift from the Priory, is presented to each of the candidates.

The Sermon

Please sit. A sermon is preached.

The Liturgy of Baptism

The Decision

The president addresses the whole congregation to renew their commitment to Christ alongside Martin and Agnes' parents and godparents saying

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 turn away from sin? **I do.**

Do you reject evil? **I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord? **I do.**

Signing with the Cross

The president makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidates, saying

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,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates, families and godparents gather at the baptismal font. The president says

Praise God who made heaven and earth, **who keeps his promise forever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Loving Father, we thank you for your servant Moses, who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you for your Son Jesus, who has passed through the deep waters of death and opened for all the way of salvation.

Now send your Spirit, that those who are washed in this water may die with Christ and rise with him, to find true freedom as your children, alive in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess on behalf of Agnes and Martin and together with their parents and godparents the faith of the Church.

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 all 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.

Baptism

The president baptises each of the candidates saying

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

The president prays with each of the candidates

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 his saints in glory. **Amen.**



The Welcome *The president says*

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.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We are baptized into Christ: let us live in the Spirit of Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

And all may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (NEH 408)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer *The president sings*

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

*Choir Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. (Okpoti)*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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.

The deacon says Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The president continues

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Bring us at the last with Mary the Mother of our Lord and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power, be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Silence is kept. Please kneel or sit.

**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.

Agnus Dei *The choir sings*

*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. (Okpoti)*

Giving of Communion

The president says

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**



The priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.

Anthems

Mine Eyes for Beauty Pine *Elizabeth Coxhead*
For the Beauty of the Earth *John Rutter*

Hymn after Communion *We remain seated to sing.*

The love of God comes close
where stands an open door,
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor.
*The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the love of God is here to stay.*

2. The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn.
*The peace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the peace of God is here to stay.*

3. The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears.
*The joy of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the joy of God is here to stay.*

4. The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised and bent.
*The grace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the grace of God is here to stay.*

5. The Son of God comes close
where people praise his name,
where bread and wine are blest
and shared as when he came.
*The Son of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the Son of God is here to stay.*

John L. Bell 1949 -

Prayer after Communion

We pray together

God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life.
Strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing

The president says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn NEH 186

*The baptism family follow the procession to the West end.
Please face the procession.*

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name;
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might;
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word;
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

Timothy Dudley-Smith b. 1926

The Dismissal

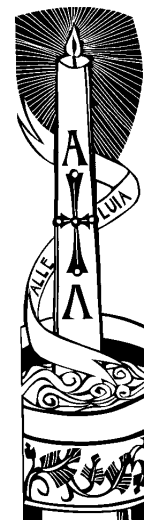
Giving of a Lighted Candle

The president gives the newly baptised a lighted candle.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

Agnes and Martin, 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 deacon says

This is love, not that we loved God, **but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins, **that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much **we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another **God lives in us.**

Go in the love, light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary Diemer Festival Toccata *Rebekah Okpoti*