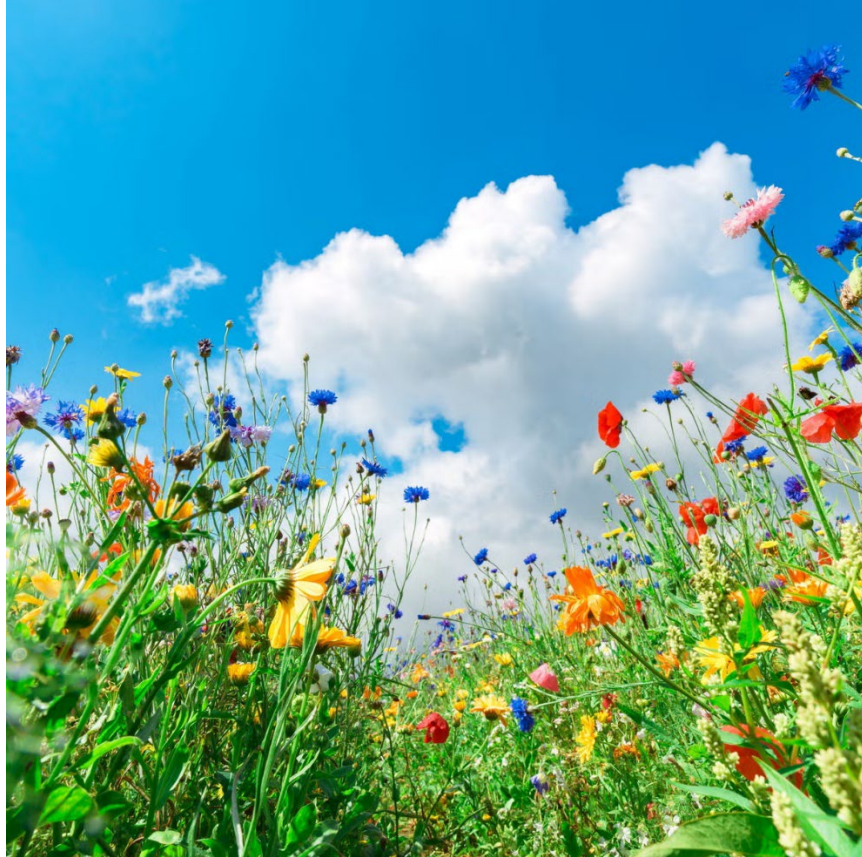


# ST JOHN'S, RANMOOR



**All Age Service**  
**Baptisms of Clara and Iris**

### **Hymn: Morning Has Broken**

Morning has broken,  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird;  
Praise for the singing,  
Praise for the morning,  
Praise for them springing  
Fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall,  
Sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass;  
Praise for the sweetness,  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness  
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play;  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day.

### **The Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### **Introduction**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.

Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

### **Reading Isaiah 43.1-7**

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth?  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Reading Acts 16.25-34**

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his whole family were baptized without delay. He brought

them up into the house and put food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

### **Talk**

#### **The Presentation**

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

We thank God for *Clara and Iris* who *have* come to be baptized today. Christ loves *them* and welcomes *them* into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support *these children* as *they begin their* journey of faith?

**We will.**

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

**We will.**

*The minister then addresses the parents and godparents:*

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

### **The Decision**

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.**

### **The Oil of Baptism**

We bring the oil of baptism. This olive oil reminds us of the dove that brought the olive branch to Noah, a symbol of peace and a new beginning. It also represents the Holy Spirit that came upon Jesus like a dove at his baptism. This oil also symbolises protection from evil. Those who are anointed with it belong to Jesus.

### **Signing with the Cross**

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 and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

### **Hymn: Have you heard the raindrops (Water of life)**

**1** Have you heard the raindrops drumming on the roof tops?  
Have you heard the raindrops dripping on the ground?  
Have you heard the raindrops splashing in the streams  
and running to the rivers all around?

*There's water, water of life,  
Jesus gives us the water of life;  
There's water, water of life,  
Jesus gives us the water of life .*

2 There's a busy worker digging in the desert,  
Digging with a spade that flashes in the sun;  
Soon there will be water rising in the wellshaft,  
spilling from the bucket as it comes.

*There's water ...*

3 Nobody can live who hasn't any water,  
When the land is dry then nothing much grows;  
Jesus gives us life if we drink the living water,  
sing it so that everybody knows.

*There's water ...*

*The baptism party moves to the font and the congregation faces the back.*

### **The Water of Baptism**

We bring the water of baptism. We need water to live, and baptism is a sign of the new life that Jesus promises to each one of us. We need water for washing and baptism is a sign of our sins being washed away.

### **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.**

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**

Let us affirm our common faith in God.

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 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**

*Clara/Iris* I baptize you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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 Welcome**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

*Clara and Iris* 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.**

*Applause. We return to our seats.*

### **Anthem: Holy, Holy, Holy *Alan Smith***

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.  
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee,  
Who was and is and evermore shall be.

3. Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

### **Prayers**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Lighted Candle**

We bring candles for Clara and Iris, symbols of Jesus, the light of world. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it. Like all of us, Clara and Iris are called to carry the light of Christ out into the world and share it with others.

Clara and Iris, 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.**

### **Hymn: I the Lord of sea and sky**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me;  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My Word to them – whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them; My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them – whom shall I send?

### **Blessing**

May the Father, who sent the Spirit on Jesus at his baptism, pour out his love on Clara, Iris and all those who have come to the water of baptism, and the blessing....

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



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