

Holy Baptism



Welcome to Lammermuir Church!

We are very happy that you have enquired about having your child baptised in our church.

This leaflet contains some information regarding baptism services, which we hope will be of help to you.

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Our congregations gather for worship on Sunday morning at 10am – usually in Humble Church on the first Sunday of the month, in Bolton Church or Saltoun Church on the third Sunday of the month, and in Yester Church in Gifford on all other Sundays. All dates are listed on the Worship page of our website.

We usually celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism as part of one of these services. Your family and friends are very welcome to join us in this celebration, and we can reserve seating in the front for you.

The baptism ceremony will usually take place after the opening hymn and prayers. After an introduction by the minister, you, the parents with your child(ren) and the godparents, if you have chosen to have any, will be asked to step forward.

The parents will be asked the following questions:

- What name do you give your child?
- Do you wish your child to be affirmed as a member of God's family?
- Do you believe in the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you choose to follow the example set in the life and teaching of Jesus?
- You have asked for your child to be baptised. Will you tell her/him of God the creator, Jesus who lived among us, and the Spirit of God's love? Will you teach her/him how to pray?

Then the godparents will be asked:

- Do you promise to show concern for the wellbeing of this child and to support his/her parents as best as you can to be faithful to this responsibility?

The congregation will then also be asked to promise to welcome the child and to support you in his/her upbringing.

Usually, I will then take the child on my arm (or, if the child is uncomfortable with this, a parent or godparent can lift the child), and the child will be baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, with the symbol of sprinkling water over her/his head.

While the congregation sings a blessing, I will take him/her through the church, to present her/him to the congregation. We will then say a prayer and you are then welcome to return to your seats.

In the following pages, you will find the lyrics of some hymns appropriate for baptisms. If you wish, you are welcome to choose one of them, or another appropriate hymn, for us to sing during the service.

We would ask you, and your family and friends, not to take any photos or video recordings during the service, to respect this act of worship. You are very welcome to take photos after the service. However, we can, on request, make provision for one photographer or videographer to take photos or film from one designated point in the church, whom we would ask to respect the guidelines by the minister.

Once a month, we offer Sunday Club for children during the main service, and if there are a number of children with your party, we can offer this during your baptism service, too. They would move to a separate room before the sermon, where there will be age-appropriate activities for them. The service can feel quite long for babies and younger children, too, and if they get upset or restless, parents are very welcome to take them for a walk in the church. there are some toys in all the churches, too.

As you make a promise to bring up your child in a Christian setting, we also invite you as parents to join our congregation as members, if you are not already.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. The minister would be happy to answer any questions and discuss any concerns you may have.

Hymns for baptisms

Child of blessing, child of promise

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
In this sacrament God claims you:
live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, you bear God's image,
learn to listen for God's call;
grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.

Ronald S. Cole-Turner (CH4 633, tune: Shipston)

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you

Chorus:

*Do not be afraid,
for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name;
you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you,
you will never sink beneath the waves. *Chorus*

When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames. *Chorus*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side. *Chorus*

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes. *Chorus*

You are mine, O my child; I am your father,
and I love you with a perfect love. *Chorus*

Gerald Markland from *Isaiah 43:1-4* (CH4 191)

A small thing like a hazelnut

A small thing like a hazelnut lay in my open hand,
and God disclosed three truths to me that I might understand:
God made it, God loves it, and God will always care;
God made it, God loves it, and God will always care for it.

I marvelled that this little thing reveals how God can be
our maker, lover, keeper, now and for eternity!
God made you, God loves you, and God will always care;
God made you, God loves you, and God will always care for you!

Until my heart is one with God, its aching will not cease,
and so I rest, held close by God, these three truths bringing peace:
God made me, God loves me, and God will always care;
God made me, God loves me, and God will always care for me!

Rae E. Whitney (CH4 142)

Bring many names

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God:
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna, old aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

Brian Wren (CH4 134, tune: Westchase)

All things bright and beautiful

Chorus:

*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.

Chorus

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

Chorus

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

Chorus

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

Chorus

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you,
allelu, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you,
allelu, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,
allelu, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Karen Lafferty (CH4 641)

One more step along the world I go

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:

Chorus

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

Chorus

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:

Chorus.

Says Jesus, 'Come and gather round'

Says Jesus, 'Come and gather round.
I want to teach my friends some truths about the love I bring,
the love that never ends.
Look to the child, here in your midst,
who has so much and more to say
of what it means to follow me, to come and walk my way.'

Christ speaks to those who, growing old,
get burdened down with care;
while caution reigns, we seldom see God's presence everywhere.
He points to gifts that children bring --
the will to risk, the trust to dare,
through which, no matter where we are, we'll find God always there.

When was it that we first forgot that questions helped us grow,
or lost the openness to ask and learn what we don't know?
Christ points to gifts that children bring,
the searching heart and lively mind
which let God's kingdom grow in those who seek until they find.

Lord Jesus, we have gathered round
to hear you teach your friends the truths about the love you bring,
that love which never ends.
We look to children in our midst for they have much and more to say
and join with them to follow you, to live and walk your way.

Leith Fisher (CH4 342, tune: Une Jeune Pucelle)

In the bulb, there is a flower

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

