



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# The Eucharist with Baptism on The Feast of The Baptism of Christ

Sunday 12th January 2025  
at 11am

With a congregation in the church  
and live on YouTube



*Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.*

*Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.*

***Today we especially welcome Sofia Courtauld Toffolo, and those who have come to support her, as she is being baptised today.***

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **OPENING HYMN**

[Tune: Kingsfold; Words: Alan Hinton]

**The prophets' voice comes down the years  
to teach and to inspire,  
to show the nature of our God  
in words and deeds and fire;  
not to disclose some rigid plan  
that God has set in stone,  
but to renew the promises  
the saints have always known.**

**The prophets' voice speaks of the past -  
the actions that reveal  
the way God taught the people then  
this broken world to heal;  
and then translates the things gone by  
in ways that we find new  
so we can judge the world we know  
in contours ever true.**

**The prophets' voice holds up a glass  
in which to see our day;  
events which span the globe around  
and things we do and say.  
They call us to repent and turn  
from things that tear life down,  
to choose the path that Jesus chose  
and share God's work and crown.**

## **OPENING RESPONSES**

*The priest says*

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service.*

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*The deacon says*

The word of God is living and active.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
trusting in Christ's promise of forgiveness and healing.

## **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

*The deacon says*

God of miracle and wonder, for whom nothing is impossible, you long to reveal yourself to us that we might reach out to you and know ourselves to be your own, cherished and chosen.

In silence we pause before you to confess our need for forgiveness and grace.

*Silence is kept.*

Forgive us if we have been too preoccupied or distracted to notice the extraordinary in the ordinary.

### **KYRIE (Ukrainian)**

*The cantor sings*

Kyrie eleison.  
(*Lord, have mercy.*)

*All sing*

**Kyrie eleison**  
**Kyrie eleison**  
**Kyrie eleison**

**Christe eleison**  
**Christe eleison**  
**Christe eleison**

**Kyrie eleison**  
**Kyrie eleison**  
**Kyrie eleison**

## THE ABSOLUTION

*The priest says*

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free.  
May you take God's forgiveness to heart and be at peace.

**Amen.**

## THE GLORIA *(Taizé)*

*The cantor sings first, then we sing once together and then twice as a 4-part round.*

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria, Gloria. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*(Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.)*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### The Collect

*The priest says*

Let us pray.

Eternal God,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us,  
who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your  
adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## **FIRST READING**

### **Acts 8.14-17**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 29**

*Response: You give your people the blessing of peace.*

Ascribe to God you heavenly powers:  
ascribe to God all glory and might.  
Ascribe due honour to God's holy name:  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:  
it is the glorious God who makes the thunder upon the  
great waters.

The voice of God is power:  
the voice of God is full of majesty.

The voice of God breaks the cedar-trees:  
the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.  
The voice of God divides the lightning:

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,  
God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

God sits enthroned above the waters:  
God sits enthroned as King for ever.  
You, Lord, will give strength to your people:  
you will give your people the blessing of peace.

*Please remain standing.*

## **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 3.15-17, 21-22**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you O Lord.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## **SERMON**

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

*A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The deacon says*

Let us pray for the world, for the church,  
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit for prayers led by a member of the congregation.*

## **BAPTISM**

*Parents and godparents move to the font,  
and the congregation turns to face them, singing ...*

**Bless the Lord my soul  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul  
who leads me into life.**

*The priest addresses the whole congregation.*

Faith is the gift of God to all people.  
In baptism, Christ is adding to our number those whom he is  
calling. People of God, will you welcome Sofia and uphold her in  
her new life in Christ?



## THE DECISION

*The priest addresses Sofia through her parents and godparents.*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on Sofia's forehead.*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly against sin, the world and the devil, 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 glory and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

**God's promise is kept forever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest continues:*

We thank you, God of life, for the gift of water  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel  
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,  
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The priest addresses the whole congregation:*

Friends, I ask you to profess  
together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Creator,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in God the Creator.**

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 God the Son.**

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 God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.**

## THE BAPTISM

*The priest says*

Sofia Inga,  
I baptise you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

May God who has received you by baptism into the Church,  
pour upon you the riches of grace, that within the company of

Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**Amen.**

## **THE GIVING OF THE CANDLE**

*The priest gives a candle to the parents, saying:*

God receives Sofia by baptism into the Church.  
Receive this light.

This is to show that Sofia has passed from darkness to light.

**Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Creator.**

## **THE WELCOME**

*The priest says*

Sofia, God receives you by baptism into the church.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are members together of the body of Christ.**

**We are children of the same Creator.**

**We welcome you!**

## **THE PEACE**

*The priest says*

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away:

Behold, everything has become new.

*The deacon says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.*

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.  
If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

*If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 21.*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Down Ampney: Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)]

**Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;**

true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;  
nor can we guess its grace,  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

### **PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

*The priest says*

God of light:  
look on us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw us from hatred to love;  
from sorrow to feasting.  
Make the frailty of our prayers  
a dwelling place for your glory.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING CHANT**

*All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit, please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the front of the church.*

*While moving to the altar, please join in singing the Taizé chant ...*

**Jubilate Deo, jubilate Deo. Alleluia.**

*(Rejoice in God. Alleluia.)*

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

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.**

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

**SANCTUS** and **BENEDICTUS** (*Williams*)

*Sing each phrase after the cantor*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna,**

**Hosanna,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The cantor sings*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Sing after the cantor*

**Hosanna,**

**Hosanna,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:  
"...as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

*The cantor sings*

Great is the mystery of faith.

*All sing after the cantor*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues ...*

*At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor*

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

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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 Bread is broken and the priest says*

We break the bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

This is the table of Christ.

It has been made ready for those who love God,  
and those who want to love more.

So come; you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been to this sacrament often  
and you who have not been for some time.

You who have tried to follow Christ and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

## **THE COMMUNION**

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will  
sing **At The River**, words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899),  
music: trad. adapted by Aaron Copland, set for choir by  
R. Wilding-White.*

Shall we gather by the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod;  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

*Yes, we'll gather by the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints by the river  
that flows by the throne of God.*

Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace.

### **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)*

*Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,  
for all the benefits you have given me for all the pains and  
insults you have borne for me.*

*Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in my heart.*

*O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.*

*Amen.*

### **Prayers for use during Communion**

*Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel  
'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of  
this community today in this Eucharist;  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself.*

*May I bind myself to you,  
in communion with all that lives this day,  
knowing that nothing can separate me from your love.*

*Amen.*

*O God, help me to trust you,  
and to know that you are with me now.  
Help me to know that all are yours,  
and you are ours, in this Eucharist and for ever.  
Amen.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
Amen.**

*Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.*

## **HYMN**

[Tune: Moscow; Words: John Marriot (1780-1825)]

**God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight,  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!**

**Christ, you have come to bring  
on your redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,**

sight to the inly blind,  
O to all humankind  
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight;  
move on the waters' face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide  
let there be light!

## **THE BLESSING**

*The priest says*

May God give you grace to follow the light of Christ,  
wherever you are led and however long the road.  
And the blessing of God almighty:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon says*

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



*In addition to the physical collection, if you do not have cash with you, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit [sjp.org.uk/donate](https://sjp.org.uk/donate), or us one of the tap donation points in the church.*



## **St James's Safeguarding Conversations**

**TODAY - Sunday 12th (in church) and Monday 13th January (on Zoom)**

After the service this morning, the congregation is invited to gather for a conversation and workshop on safeguarding. There will also be an opportunity to join a conversation tomorrow, Monday 13th January, at 6.30pm on Zoom.

This event will be led by Charley Matthews our Safeguarding Officer, The Revd Ayla Lepine (Associate Rector), and Joanna Kelly (Outreach Manager). Everyone is encouraged to attend, and the conversation will reflect on how we can work together to ensure that St James's prioritises safeguarding as part of our commitment to hospitality for all.



This session will be specific to St James's and our unique context, including services and outreach projects.

The Zoom link for Monday's session is available from Charley our Parish Safeguarding Officer: [safeguarding@sjp.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjp.org.uk)

## Wren Project News: South Door and Organ Restoration

Until April 2025, the first stage of the Wren Project will take place. This is a hugely exciting step forward for St James's. The organ will be restored and rebuilt, and there will be a new door on the Jermyn Street side of the church.

Christopher Wren's original plan for St James's included this South Door. By bringing this to life, we'll combine his vision to connect more with our local community neighbours with a new wheelchair accessible entrance. The organ, with its Grinling Gibbons case, will make music for the first time in many generations.

There will be building works and scaffolding. The church will be open throughout the week as often as possible, and daily services will continue with a new schedule. There will be lots of regular updates too in the weekly newsletter and on the website at [www.sjp.org.uk](http://www.sjp.org.uk)



## Sanctuary

Tuesday 14th January at 6pm, St Pancras Euston Road

The next Sanctuary Eucharist is on Tuesday 14th January at St Pancras Euston Road, starting with 30 minutes of reflection and prayer at 6pm, followed by the service at 6.30pm.



The service will remain at St Pancras for the early part of 2025.

## Prayer Services During the Week

Whilst the South Door project is underway at St James's, all weekday services will take place in the round, in the centre of the church. Everyone is warmly welcome.



Services are at 1pm, for 30 minutes, on Monday, Tuesday, Friday (Prayer During the Day), and Wednesday & Thursday (Eucharist). Check the building project website for further details and updates about opening times at:

[www.sjp.org.uk/south-door-restoration-works/](http://www.sjp.org.uk/south-door-restoration-works/)

## For your prayers this week

### Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

Our partnership with St Pancras Euston Road.

Julian and Jessica, whose wedding is on Friday (17th January)

Haifeng Yang and Liang Zhou whose wedding blessing was last Sunday (5th January).

### Those who have asked for our prayers

Meg Stewart, Puck, Alex, Yvonne and Breda

### Those who are ill

Thilo, Jean

### Recently departed

Margaret Ivy, and for Maud-Ann, Simon and all who mourn her Mary, and for Joan and Jane who mourn her.

Tim, and for all who mourn him.

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

### As part of the Anglican Communion, and the Diocese of London Prayer Cycle, we pray today for:

The Church of the Province of West Africa: Cyril Ben-Smith (Primate, and Bishop of Asante-Mampong).

Oulu (Finland): Jukka Keskitalo (Bishop).

Sør-Hålogaland (Norway): Svein Valle (Bishop).

Confident Disciples: for those who are looking for work.

The work of the Archdeacon of London, The Venerable Luke Miller, his PA Chloe Hobbs, and Area staff Georgina Graham (Operations Manager) and Diane Kerr (Administrator).