

Reflection for the Week
January 10th-January 17th, 2021

On Sunday we celebrated the Baptism of Christ. With this in mind, and as it is the start of a new year, this reflection looks at the baptismal promises. It is good to remind ourselves that through Christ, we are God's children. It is so tempting to think that we must earn God's love for us; that we have to prove ourselves worthy of God's love. This is not the case. Through Christ, God loves us and calls us home to him despite the things we have done or not done. The words in the service of baptism witness to the truth that each one of us is precious in God's sight.

(If you are not baptised or confirmed and would like to be, please contact Revd. Mandy).

In baptism, God invites us on a life-long journey, together with all God's people, to explore the way of Jesus and to grow in friendship with God, in love for his people and in serving others.

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever. **Amen.**

In baptism, the love of God is offered to each one of us. Though we cannot understand or explain it, we are called to accept God's love with the openness and trust of a child.

In baptism we are assured of the love that God has for us and the sign and seal of the Holy Spirit is placed upon us. Christ loves us and welcomes us into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support one another on your journeys of faith?

We will.

Will you help each other to live and grow within God's family?

We will.

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 Christ as Lord?

I do

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The minister makes the sign of the cross, and says

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his forever. May almighty God deliver you from all the powers of darkness, and may you remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life. **Amen.**