

Suggested Readings for Baptism of Children

Please note that these are purely suggestions and please do not think that you are restricted to them. Further suggestions may be found at: -

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/initiation/presedinit/baptism/readings.html>

Matthew 3:13-17 - The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 7:24-27 - The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

John 6:1-13 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages^[a] would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Genesis 1:24-31 – Days 5 & 6 of the creation

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, ^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Luke 18:15-17 - The Little Children and Jesus

¹⁵People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Some other Readings from the Old Testament

Psalm 46.1- 7

God is our refuge and strength, ♦
a very present help in trouble;
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved ♦
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;
Though the waters rage and swell ♦
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed; ♦
God shall help her at the break of day.
The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, ♦
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦
the God of Jacob is our stronghold

Psalm 89.21,22,25-29

„My hand shall hold him fast ♦
and my arm shall strengthen him.
„No enemy shall deceive him, ♦
nor any wicked person afflict him.
„I will set his dominion upon the sea ♦
and his right hand upon the rivers.
„He shall call to me, “You are my Father, ♦
my God, and the rock of my salvation;”
„And I will make him my firstborn: ♦
the most high above the kings of the earth.
„The love I have pledged to him will I keep for ever ♦
and my covenant will stand fast with him.
„His seed also will I make to endure for ever ♦
and his throne as the days of heaven.”

Isaiah 43.1-7

But now, this is what the LORD says – he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I
have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the
waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will
not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be
burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush
and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honoured in my sight,
and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and
people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will
bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, „Give them up!” and to the south, „Do not hold
them back.” Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of
the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my
glory, whom I formed and made.