

St. Mary Bromley

Family Service

for

*Mothering
Sunday*

With the baptism

of

Arinzechukwu (Arinze) Aneke

10.30 a.m. 19 March 2023

Welcome

Arinze is presented to the congregation and his parents and godparents are introduced

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome Arinze and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Arinze's parents and godparents express their intentions for Arinze's baptism, Arinze is signed with the cross.

The congregation encourage them in the Christian life, concluding:

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

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ 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 his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

Song – For the beauty of the earth *(during which flags are received)*

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the Love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our Sacrifice of Praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above; pleasures pure and undefiled:
Lord of all...

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Grace is human and divine flowers of earth and buds of heaven
Lord of all...

For thy church which evermore lifteth holy hands above
offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love
Lord of all...

Opening Prayer

**Lord today is special as we think about mothers.
We are grateful for who they are,
for what they have done,
and for who we are because of them.
Thank you for all that has been lovely,
for generosity love and kindness.
We also pray about where there has been sadness,
and know that you are our God of all situations. Amen.**

confession

**Lord there is so much that is full of joy,
but sometimes we are part of what is wrong.
Forgive us for the things that have made you sad,
we want our lives to be better and we ask for your
forgiveness.**

absolution

God is like a good parent who knows us very well.
Your prayer is heard and he forgives you.
May you know you are loved and that God
will fill you with strength and joy. **Amen**

Reading – Psalm 131

O Israel, trust in the Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud; ♦
my eyes are not raised in haughty looks.

I do not occupy myself with great matters, ♦
with things that are too high for me.

But I have quieted and stilled my soul,
like a weaned child on its mother's breast; ♦
so my soul is quieted within me.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, ♦
from this time forth for evermore.

O Israel, trust in the Lord.

Reception of flowers

Birthdays

Everyone who has had a birthday since our last Family Service is welcome to join us at the front and receive a candle.

We then sing the following:

**Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you,
may God bless you and keep you,
happy birthday to you.**

Presentations from the Scout Group

Talk

Song as Arinze is taken to the font

Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh
I'll laugh with you;

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song/CopyCare Ltd

Baptism

The prayer over the water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

the prayer continues and concludes

...now and for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of faith

Let us affirm,

together with these who are being baptized,

our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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

Arinze has water poured on him with the words

Arinze, 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.

Giving of gifts

The Welcome and Peace

Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: Arinze, 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.**

Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Song – Love is his word

Love is his word, love is his way, feasting with all, fasting alone, living and dying, rising again, love, only love, is his way.

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is his way, love is his name, we are his own, chosen and called, family, brethren, cousins and kin. Love, only love, is his name.

Richer than gold...

Love is his name, love is his law. Hear his command, all who are his: "Love one another, I have loved you." Love, only love, is his law.

Richer than gold...

Love is his law, love is his word: love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one. love, only love, is his word.
Richer than gold...

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Distribution of flowers

Prayers

To the bidding

We praise you, O Lord;

Please respond

and bring you thanks today.

Our prayers conclude

**Help us to live as those who belong to one another, and to you,
our Father, now and always. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Song - From heaven you came *(during which flags are returned)*

From heaven, you came helpless babe, entered our world,
your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve, and give your life that we might live.
*This is our God, the Servant King, he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering, of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears, my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn, 'yet not my will but yours', he said.
This is our God...

Come see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God...

So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving.
This is our God...

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Blessing

May the Lord whose steadfast love
is constant as a mother's care,
send us out to live and work for others.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.