

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Words of Institution- Minister

And Jesus taught them saying: “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord alone. You shall love the Lord our God with all your heart, with all you soul, and with all your might. These words which I command you shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall speak of them when you are in your home, when you are walking, when you are resting, and when you are rising in the morning..”

And, in the gospel according to Mark we read: “In that hour they came to Jesus and asked, “Who is in the kingdom of God.” And Jesus called to him a child and said, “I say to you unless you turn and become little children you shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven. And whosoever shall receive a child in my name, receives me.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them.

The Meaning of Baptism

In this service of baptism and consecration we declare our faith in the universal care of God. We recognize this/these child/children as God’s own. We publicly name him/her/them as belonging to the great family of God and we receive his/her/them into the care of this Christian Church

We dedicate this/these child/children as we re-dedicate ourselves, trusting that when he/she/they reach the age of discretion they will confirm what we have done on their behalf today.

To the Parent(s) – Senior Deacon/ness

Do you sincerely desire to consecrate _____ to God?

Do you promise to teach _____ the way of righteousness, goodness, and truth; to set before _____ a good example; to pray with him/her/them and for him/her/them; nurturing him/her/them in the love of God and the care of his/her/their neighbor?

To the God Parents/Sponsors- Senior Deacon/ness

Do you who stand as sponsors of this child and supporters of this/these parent/s promise to provide _____ with a godly example, to pray for this family as well as for _____, and exemplify the Christian life?

God grant to all of you the grace to act upon the promises you have made.

The Act of Baptism and Presentation

By what name(s) shall this children/these children be called?

_____ I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost

Dear Friends, this is our newest member of the Christian Church. I present _____ to you for your blessing.

Prayer of Consecration

Almighty God, we thank you for receiving this/these child/children into the company of your Son's people. We commend _____ to your loving care. Help those who have _____ in their care, to keep the vows that they have made and faithfully teach the lessons of our faith. Strengthen this family in the bonds of love; guide them in the way of trust and responsibility and let their counsel to their child/children be wise.

Members' Commitment

Senior Deacon/ness

Dearly beloved, this family needs our prayers and our support. Every time we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, it gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to Christ. If you are a member of this congregation or any Christian communion, will you rise?

Minister

It takes the entire Christian Church to raise a Christian child in this world. Would you promise, on behalf of this congregational Christian Church, and the Church universal, to do all you can to live a Christian life so that this child and any child you might have the privilege to influence, might see Christ in you?

The Giving of Gifts – Senior Deacon/ness

This candle is given in the hope that each year you will –relight it with _____ reminding them of this day. For centuries candlelight has the light of the world – Jesus Christ.

This certificate is a record of _____'s baptism

On behalf of our congregation, our Senior Deacon/ness _____ and I
Offer you the Right Hand of Fellowship.

The Blessing

Little _____ by this act of baptism we welcome you to a journey that will take your whole life. This is the beginning of God's experiment with your life. What God will make of you, we do not know. Where god will take you, or how god will surprise you, we cannot be sure. This we do know. And this is my blessing to you – God loves you and is always with you.