

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Hymn I Am a Child of God MV #157

THE STATEMENT

Minister:

Hear the command of the risen Christ:
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Mtt. 28:18-20)

In baptism, we celebrate God’s love, a love revealed in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, a love which has surrounded us from our beginning. In baptism, we proclaim that God has acted to save us. God washes us in cleansing waters and brings us into the church, the living body of Christ. When we baptize children, we dedicate them to God, knowing that even though we may fail, God will not; that God will continue, through the Holy Spirit, the work begun this day, a work in which life triumphs over death.

PRESENTATION (Bernie Dykerman)

On behalf of the Central Queens Faith Community, I present the following (*child, the son of*), for initiation into the body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism.

QUESTIONS AND PROMISES

Minister: Do you desire to have (*child’s name*) baptized into this Christian community?

Parents’ Response: I do

Minister: Will you encourage (*child’s name*) to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with their God?

Parents’ Response: I do

Minister: Will you foster for (*child’s name*) an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

Parents’ Response: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Will you teach (*child’s name*) to honour the faith questions that belong to (*him/her*) throughout (*his/her*) life?

Parents’ Response: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Will you journey with (*child’s name*) to discover the wonder of God’s love made manifest here this day?

Parents’ Response: I will, God being my helper.

***Congregation, please rise**

Minister: Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to (*child’s name*) as (*he/she*) live and grow in this Christian community?

Congregational Response:

We promise our love, support, and care.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,**

who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

(Water is poured into the font)

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over it's unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation; by water comes the growth of the earth. Through water you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child, Jesus, was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Baptism:

(Child's Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father (creator), and the Son (redeemer), and of the Holy Spirit (sustainer). **Amen**

(Child's Name), with the sign of the cross, you are claimed as Christ's forever. **Amen**

(Child's Name), the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness to God who created you. **Amen**

BLESSING

May the blessing of the One God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always. **Amen**

GIVING OF THE CANDLE

Receive this candle. It symbolizes that in baptism we have passed from darkness into light. Shine as a light in this world, to the glory of God.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE, BIBLE & PRAYER SHAWL (Bernie Dykerman)

WELCOME

Into the household of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise. In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

BAPTISMAL BENEDICTION May God Who Creates You VU #454

May God who creates you give you light.

May God who sustains you make you wise.

May God who protects you give you joy.

May God who surrounds you give you peace.