

# Baptism

## Introduction:

Following the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community, we celebrate the presence of children within this community of faith and offer to children the sacrament of baptism.

As we invite Christian and his family to come forward today and celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we remember that the sacrament of baptism is an outward sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is a reminder of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

## Questions of the Family:

Do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community?

Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God?

Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

Will you teach your child to honor the faith questions that belong to him throughout his life?

Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

## Congregational Assent:

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 this child being baptized as he lives and grows in this Christian community?

**ALL: We promise our love support and care.**

## Affirmation of Faith:

Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life?

**All: I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

**All: I believe in Christ.**

Do you believe in the Spirit the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life?

**All: I believe in the Spirit.**

### **Baptismal Prayer:**

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word.

Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the Promised Land.

You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless all who touch and taste this water that may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on their lives. Amen.

UCC Book of Worship, adapted

### **Act of Baptism:**

By what name will this child be called? [name] I baptize you with faith in the living God, Source, Servant and Guide.

May the Spirit be upon you, child of God, disciple of Christ, and member of the Christian church.

**Prayer of Dedication:** (prayed in unison)

**God of wonder and grace,  
we thank you for your love  
revealed here this day  
as this community, this family, and  
this child  
come together making covenant  
promises.**

**We pray that this community will  
have the grace to uphold the  
promises made here this day ,  
providing a safe shelter of your  
love in which this child may grow  
and play.**

**We pray that this family may  
continue to feel the sweet wonder  
of your presence so transparent  
here today.**

**We pray that this child will bask in  
your love as he makes his own  
journey through this life.**

**Amen.**

### **Presentation of the Child:**

The congregation is invited to stand and share in singing "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (#325 NCH) as the child is introduced.

Sources: Rev. Katherine Hawker and UCC Book of Worship