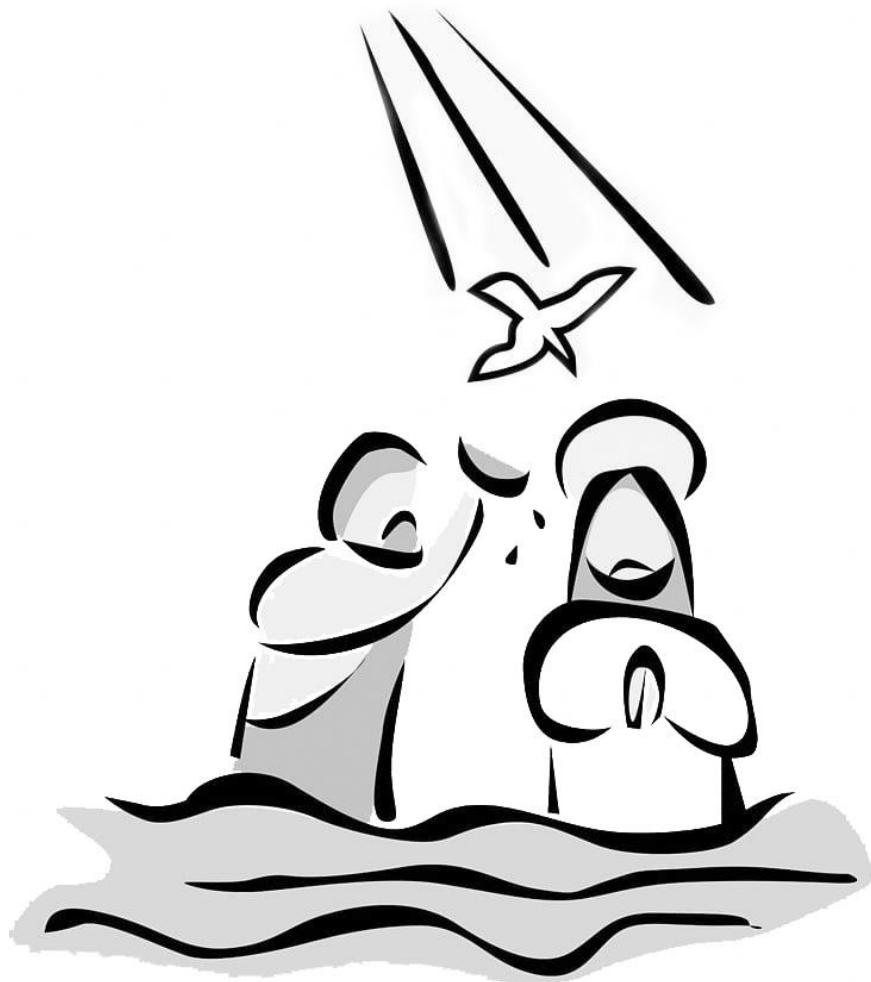


A service to celebrate The Baptism of Christ



and to renew Covenant Vows

Introduction

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

All Alleluia. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A hymn is sung

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All and also with you.

Grant us, Lord, who behold your glory, to drink from the waters of the new creation flowing from the river of life at your baptism.

Give us the wings of the Spirit that we may hasten to meet you at your coming, and praise you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Two Bible Readings

Prayers:

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

God in Christ gives us the water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All Lord, give us this water, and we shall thirst no more.

Father, for your gift of water in creation

All we give you thanks and praise.

For your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life

All we give you thanks and praise.

For your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the river Jordan
All we give you thanks and praise.

For your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit
All we give you thanks and praise.

For your grace bestowed upon us your children, washing away our sins
All we give you thanks and praise.

May your Holy Spirit, who has brought us to new birth in the family of your Church, raise us in Christ, our anointed Lord, to full and eternal life.
All Lord, receive our prayer.

For all might, majesty and dominion are yours, now and for ever.
All Alleluia. Amen.

A hymn is sung

A Sermon or talk is given

A hymn is sung

The Renewal of the Covenant

God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

Let us pray:

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.
For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ, reluctant to follow
him and afraid to bear the cross: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship, the formality and
selfishness of our prayers, our neglect of fellowship and the means of
grace, and our hesitating witness for Christ: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts, evade our responsibilities
and fail to be good stewards of your creation: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good, tolerant
of injustice, quick to condemn and selfish in sharing your love with others:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, forgive.

Silence is kept.

**Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my
sin.**

**Make in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your
gracious spirit.**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *us* to himself, and cleanse
us from all our sins that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word
made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, let us again claim for ourselves this covenant which God has made with his people, and take upon us the yoke of Christ. This means that we are content that he appoint us our place and work, and that he himself be our reward.

Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.

In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

Continuing overleaf, we stand and say together:

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.**

Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things and when I have nothing.

**I willingly offer all that I have and am
to serve you, as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.**

May it be so for ever.

**Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.

May God the creator, the rock of our salvation,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgiven all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever.

All Amen.

A hymn is sung

The Sending Out

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in us the image of his glory;

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on us
who have come to the waters of new birth.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All Amen.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

