

## BAPTISM INSTRUCTIONS

1. On the day your baptism is scheduled, please meet in the pastor's study forty-five minutes before the worship service.
2. Items to bring - You will need to bring with you everything you need to go from being wet to being dry (towel, brush, hair dryer, etc.).
3. Dress - The church will provide you with a baptismal robe. Please bring your bathing suit to wear underneath, and a robe to put on afterward.
4. There is a baptismal steward to help both the men and the women before and after the baptismal ceremony.
5. Since the baptismal service is scheduled for the beginning of the worship service, you will need to dress for the baptism and be ready at the beginning of the service.
6. As you enter the baptistery (trust us, it is warm!), please take the pastor's hand and follow his directions. He will ask you one question, "My brother/sister in Christ, do you believe that Jesus died and rose again for you?" Please respond affirmatively at this time.
7. Please consider spending some time in prayer and fasting during the time leading up to and after your baptism. Expect God to do great things in your life during this time.
8. Congratulations! You have been obedient to our Lord's command and have been baptized, as He was, many, many years ago. May your walk with Him be a significant one.

## Example of Baptism Service –

### **The Baptismal Address**

Though believer's baptism is a repeated occurrence in the life of a congregation, it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the believer. As well, non-believers, friends and family of the new Christian may be present, any of whom may never have witnessed this ordinance. For these reasons, this act should be interpreted on each occasion, with attention to the message of the gospel which is symbolized by this act.

Some appropriate selections from scripture are suggested in the order that follows. Additional scripture resources: *Matthew 28:16-20; John 14:21-23; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:35-38, Romans 6:5-11*

The following are statements that may be used to communicate the biblical significance of baptism.

*Baptism is:*

- an ordinance (or commandment) of Jesus Christ, established and given to his people (or to the Church) to be obeyed by those who have come to salvation by faith.

**Baptism for the believer is:**

- an act of obedience,
- the following of Jesus' example,
- a public confession/testimony,
- a vow of commitment to Jesus Christ,
- a pledge and sign of belonging to Christ and his Church, and;
- an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual experience.

*Baptism is a symbol of:*

- the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- the death to sin and resurrection to a new life of the believer,
- the cleansing of regeneration,
- the gospel that saves,
- the changes already accomplished in the life, and;
- the resurrection of the dead of all believers.

It is the responsibility and privilege of the believing community to administer the ordinance to those who, having repented of their sins and having received Jesus Christ as their Saviour, present themselves for baptism.

### **After the Baptism**

The baptism may be followed by the Lord's Supper where the candidates would receive the first communion and be welcomed into church membership. After the worship service, a reception in honour of the candidates may be held.

Since this is the most important commitment that a person will make in their lifetime, every effort should be made to acknowledge it, for the sake of the individuals and of the church body. An appropriate gift, such as a Bible, a devotional book, etc. may be given to mark the occasion. Upon reception into church membership, the new member should also be presented with a copy of the church covenant, a church history (if available), the church bylaws or constitution, and materials on the ministries of the church. Some churches compile these materials into an attractive "New Members Packet." (This same packet may be presented to new members who have joined the church through letters of transfer.)

## **An Order of Service for the Baptism of Believers**

### ***Baptismal Hymn***

#### *Scripture Reading*

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" *Matthew 3: 13-17*

"Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, you must be born from above. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'" *John 3:5-8*

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"What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

*Romans 6:1-4*

#### *Address to the Congregation*

##### *Prayer*

God of Grace and Mercy, we give you our humble and heartfelt thanks for our Saviour Jesus Christ, who died for sins, was buried and was raised on the third day. We ask you to accept [this/these], your [child/children], as [he/she/they] come[s] to you in baptism. We pray that [he/she/they] may be united by faith with Christ in his Church, and receive forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, as you have promised. May [he/she/they] walk with Christ throughout life. Keep [him/her/them] strong in faith, in hope and in love. Pour out on [him/her/them] the rich gifts of your grace, that [he/she/they] may serve you in the building up

of your Church. Protect [him/her/them] in all the trials and temptations of this life, and, at the end, give the precious gift of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Address to Candidates*

[If giving a verbal testimony:]

Since you have already shared your faith with deacons of this church, and on their recommendation, \_\_\_\_\_ we are glad to baptize you. However, so that your faith and intention are clear to all here, would you share briefly your experience of Jesus Christ?

[If not giving verbal testimony:] will you answer the following questions?

*Pastor:* Have you confessed your repentance toward God, and your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

*Candidate:* I have.

*Pastor:* Will you sincerely try, depending on the guidance of the Word and the Spirit of God, to follow Christ and to serve him in the fellowship and mission of his church?

*Candidate:* I will.

*The Baptismal Statement*

\_\_\_\_\_, upon your profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I now baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

[After the baptism, the pastor may say:]

And there is still room. What prevents you from being baptized?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CBOQ. *A Manual for Worship and Service* - CBOQ.