

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Holy Baptism

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

Be it known that

child of _____

born at _____

on _____, _____

was this day baptized and is now enrolled as a

Baptized Member

in _____
Church

at _____
Place

Pastor

_____, _____
Date

Witnesses

Holy Baptism

FOR CHILDREN AND OTHERS UNABLE TO
ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES

This service is to be used only when children or others unable to take the vows themselves are being baptized, and when there is not a youth or adult baptism, confirmation, or reaffirmation of faith.

When it is necessary to shorten the service, at least sections 4, 8, and 11 are used.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

As persons are coming forward, an appropriate hymn of baptism or confirmation may be sung.

1 *The pastor makes the following statement to the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

3 *A representative of the congregation presents the candidates:*

I present for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

4 *The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors:*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do

Will you nurture *these children (persons)*
in Christ's holy church,
that by your teaching and example they may be guided
to accept God's grace for themselves,
to profess their faith openly,
and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

8 *The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith
and life and include *these persons* now before you in
your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround *these persons*
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that *they* grow in *their* service to others.**

**We will pray for *them*.
that *they* may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

9 *The pastor addresses all:*

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New
Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
[who was conceived by the Holy spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the
dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
[the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.]**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

10 The water may be poured into the font at this time, and the following prayer offered:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*universal

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters
and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples

to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare his works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit

to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,
to wash away their sin

and clothe them in righteousness
throughout their lives,

**our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The pastor addresses those baptized:

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

One or more lay leaders may join with the pastor in acts of welcome and peace.

Appropriate thanksgiving and intercessions for those who have participated in these acts should be included in the concerns and prayers which follow.

It is most fitting that the service continue with Holy Communion, in which the union of the new members with the body of Christ is most fully expressed. The new members may receive first.