

SERVICE OF INFANT BAPTISM
Gilmore Park United Church
December, 2005

Gathering Hymn

Statement of Purpose

The sacrament of baptism
proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,
welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ,
united with one another and the Christian community
of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit
for the work of the church in the world.

As we come to this font of living water,
let us recall the meaning of baptism.
For just as the body is one and has many parts or *members*,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
Now you are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Presentation of Candidates

Minister, to congregational member assisting:

Who comes to receive this sacrament?

Response:

On behalf of the Council of Gilmore Park United Church, I present the following *persons* for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

N _____

N _____

Profession of Faith and Promises

Minister, to the candidates' parent(s):

1. Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit? **I do.**
2. Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation? **I will, God being my helper.**
3. Will you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as Saviour and Lord? **I will, God being my helper.**
4. Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ? **I will, God being my helper.**
5. Baptism is the first step in your child's journey of faith. Will you journey with *her*, nurture *her* within Christian community, and help *her* to faithfully discern *her* commitment to Christian discipleship? **I will, God being my helper.**

Commitment of Godparents (optional)

1. Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support *her* and *her* parents as *she* grows in faith? **I will, God being my helper.**

Congregational Commitment

The congregation will stand.

Let us pledge to *this family* our commitment and care:

As a baptized and baptizing people, our commitment to *this child* is to nurture *her* in an accepting, loving and questioning community so that *she* may experience the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, and commit to a life of discipleship. May God grant us grace to live out our baptism in this vow.

Let us join in a statement of our communal faith:

UNITED CHURCH CREED

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 celebrate God's presence,
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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water
Water is poured, visibly and audibly, into the font.

Blessed are you, O God,
Ruler of the universe,
Maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea.
At the beginning, your Spirit was at work,
brooding over the waters of creation's birth.
Again and again
you have shown your grace to us through water:
cleansing the earth at the flood,
parting for the exodus at the Red Sea,
flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

[Blessed are you, O God.]

In the fullness of time,
you gave us Jesus:
nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb,
baptized by John in the River Jordan,
giver of living water,
wellspring of eternal life.

[Blessed are you, O God.]

Therefore, eternal and present God,
we thank you for the water with which you bless us.
We pray that those who are baptized,
into the death and resurrection of Jesus,
may live in your grace.

Pour out, O God,
your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water,
that this font may become
your womb of new birth,
our fount of blessing and source of grace.

[Blessed are you, O God.]

All glory, praise, and honour be to you,
now and forever.

[Amen.]

The Act of Baptism

Minister: What is the name of this child?

N_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Laying on of Hands

The minister, and other congregational members assisting will lay hands on the child:

May the Holy Spirit bless you and work within you, that you may become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle & Sung Response of Blessing

The candle is lit on the communion table, and stays lit to the end of the service.

A hymn or blessing is sung by the choir and/or the congregation, and the child is welcomed by the whole people of God.