

Commission

Either

Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words

We have brought these children to baptism trusting in God's love and power to raise them to new life in Christ.

As they grow up they will need help from other Christians in growing in the life of faith. This is the prime responsibility of parents and godparents, but also the duty of the whole community of faith, to guide them in following Christ and come in due course to confirmation.

Or

To the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves, a minister may say

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your heart(s) through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

The following or some other prayer may be said

God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Welcome and Peace

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

The president introduces the Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The ministers and those who have been baptized return from the font, and a hymn may be sung, such as the following

Hymn

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.
- 2 In your Church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.

The president stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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.**

Father, accept our sacrifice of praise;
may your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ in the freedom of your kingdom.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

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

¶ The Sending Out

The Blessing

The president may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable blessing, or
The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The president or another person may give all candidates a lighted candle.
These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.

When all have received a candle, the president says
God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Dismissal

A minister says
Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

The Decision

The baptism candidates and their parents, godparents and sponsors come to the front of the Church.

The Paschal candle is lit. The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

3

- 1 Breathe on me, Spirit of Jesus,
breathe on me, Holy Spirit of God.
- 2 Fill me again, Spirit of Jesus,
fill me again, Holy Spirit of God.
- 3 Change my heart, Spirit of Jesus,
change my heart, Holy Spirit of God.
- 4 Bring peace to the world, Spirit of Jesus,
bring peace to the world, Holy Spirit of God.
- 5 Fill us with joy, Spirit of Jesus,
fill us with joy, Holy Spirit of God.

Tina Pownall 1987

4

Deep and wide, deep and wide,
there's a fountain flowing deep and wide;
deep and wide, deep and wide
there's a fountain flowing deep and wide.

Sidney E. Cox © Singspiration Music / Fine Balance Music [JP35]

5

- 1 Father God, we worship you,
make us part of all you do.
As you move among us now
we worship you.
- 2 Jesus, King, we worship you,
help us listen now to you.
As you move among us now
we worship you.
- 2 Spirit pure, we worship you,
with your fire our zeal renew.
As you move among us now
we worship you.

Graham Kendrick © 1981 Kingsway's Thankyou Music [MP131]

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates, with their parents and godparents, come to the front of the Church and are presented to the congregation.

The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome *these children/candidates* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy.

Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith. Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin their journey in faith. You speak for *them* today. Will you care for *them*, and help *them* to take *their* place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The candidates, parents, and godparents return to their places.

Hymn

Children in the 'Discoverers' group may leave to go to the hall for their own activities

9

- 1 Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small;
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.
- 2 Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Margaret B. Cropper 1926 [JP134]

10

Jesus has promised my shepherd to be,
that's why I love him so;
and to the children he said, 'Come to me',
that's why I love him so.

That's why I love him, that's why I love him,
because he first loved me;
when I'm tempted and tried, he is close by my side,
that's why I love him so.

Scott Lawrence © [JP406]

11

Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.
Captivate my heart,
let your kingdom come,
establish there a throne,
let your will be done.
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.
Reign in me, sovereign Lord, reign in me.

Chris Bowater © 1985 Sovereign Lifestyle Music [MP570]