

A Service for Simple Baptism

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service may be taken by those in Minor Orders. This service does not include anointing with Holy Oils. This is a simple baptismal service based on a United Reformed Church liturgy. It is intended to be used as part of another service but can out of necessity be used alone. This service can be an immersion for a believer's baptism if desired. Should that be the case it may be conducted at a beach or pool.

Introit

Minister: In the name of the Most High God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Minister: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Minister: Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it in all its fullness.

All: Amen.

Minister: We are gathered here today to welcome N by baptism into the church.

Minister: In John's Gospel we read that Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'

(John 3:5)

Minister: Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'
(Acts 2:38-39)

The Affirmations

Minister: The Lord says: See, I am making all things new. *(Revelation 21:5a)*

Minister: Paul says: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. *(2 Cor. 5:17)*

Addressing the candidate for believer's baptism:

Minister: Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life, redeemer of the world?

Candidate: I do.

Minister: Do you repent of your sins, turn away from evil, and turn to Christ?

Candidate: By God's grace, I do.

Minister: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Candidate: I do.

To the parent(s) or those bringing the child to be baptized

Minister: A and B, you have come for the baptism of N in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us hear that you confess your faith in Christ.

After a moments silence:

Minister: Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life, redeemer of the world?

Parents: I/We do.

Where a child is old enough to make a response, a form such as the following may be used in addition:

Minister: N, do you believe that Jesus loves you, and calls you to follow him?

Candidate: I do (or: Yes).

Prayer

The minister or an assistant pours water into the font or baptistery (unless this is being held at a beach or pool) while the minister says:

Minister: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. In your goodness you give us water to sustain our life and renew the earth. May it be for N the water of new birth.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Minister: Gracious God, we thank you for your love in all creation, especially for the gift of water, to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Minister: In the beginning you moved over the waters and to a formless void brought light and life.

Minister: You led your people through the waters of the sea from slavery to freedom in a land of promise.

Minister: Your Son was baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan. You sent your Spirit upon him.

Minister: He fulfilled his baptism upon the cross and was raised from the dead that we might have eternal life.

Minister: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that N, being born anew of water and the Spirit, may remain for ever in the number of your faithful children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Baptism

In the case of believer's baptism a friend and/or sponsors may stand with the candidate: in the case of infant baptism, with the baptismal party. The candidate is immersed in water or has water poured over her/his head. For an infant baptism the parent(s) hold their child during the pouring of water by the minister. A towel should be on hand if required.

Minister: N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The minister may gesture the sign of the Cross on the forehead of the newly-baptized person. Others (such as friends, sponsors, family members) may also do so.

Minister: N, I sign you with the Cross, the sign of Christ.

All: Amen.

Declaration of Baptism

Minister: N, child of God, God receives you by baptism into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

All: Amen.

The Lords Prayer

Minister: We say together the Lords Prayer:

All: Our Father...

The Blessing

All present say the Aaronic blessing:

All: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-25)*

END of service

Please pray for those baptised today, their parents or family and friends, yourselves and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church regularly.