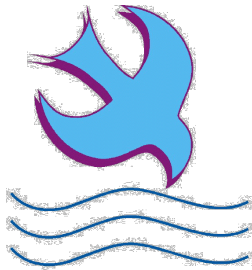


THANKSGIVING & BLESSING



BAPTISM



We are pleased to receive your recent inquiry regarding a Thanksgiving & Blessing or Baptism for your child. The members of our Church family wish to celebrate the birth of your child in a way that is most appropriate.

Two services are available:

The Thanksgiving & Blessing of a Child

The Sacrament of Baptism

These are conducted during the normal act of worship of the congregation. An outline of these two services is overleaf. Extracts from both services are included.

* Please read and consider this information carefully. The Minister and Elder will discuss this when they meet with you.

TWO SERVICES	THANKSGIVING & BLESSING FOR A CHILD	SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
YOUR MOTIVATION	<p>To give thanks for God's gift of your child</p> <p>To seek God's help in the responsible task of parenthood</p>	<p>To Acknowledge that your child belongs to God</p> <p>To bring your child to be received into the family of God</p> <p>To seek the help of God and the Church to enable your child to grow as a Christian.</p>
INVOLVING	<p>Public Christian thanksgiving</p> <p>Prayers for the parents and child</p> <p>Blessing of the child</p>	<p>Public confession of Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and acknowledgement of sin.</p> <p>Promise to provide a Christian home and an opportunity for your child to grow up in the life of the Church</p> <p>This is expressed in regular participation in the public worship of the congregation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion</p>
MEANING	<p>An acknowledgement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that God desires the best for you and your child - that the Church can help you and your child to come to a full faith in Jesus Christ 	<p>Receiving what Christ has done through His death and resurrection to give you new life</p> <p>Christ makes you one of God's people</p> <p>Pledging your life to God</p> <p>Committing yourself to being a Christian family, at home, and through your participation in the worship life of the Church</p>
OUR PART	<p>We offer you our prayers and support</p> <p>We encourage you to worship with us and offer our help wherever it is needed</p>	<p>To nurture you within the fellowship and worship of the Church family</p> <p>To nurture you in your faith in Jesus Christ</p> <p>To encourage and help you to grow as a Christian family</p>

THANKSGIVING & BLESSING FOR A CHILD

Minister:

All life is from God,
and children are a gift from the Lord.
Within a family,
the birth/adoption of a child
is a joyous and solemn occasion.
In this event we see the wonder
of God's loving creativity among us.

We are now to share the joy of this family
whose life has been enriched
by the gift of N.

Minister: (addressing the parents)

Do you receive N as a gift from God?

Parents:

**We thankfully receive N
as a gift from God.
With humility and hope
we dedicate ourselves
to love and care for her/him,
and to set before her/him the Christian faith
by teaching and example.
In this we ask for the power of the Holy Spirit
and the prayers of the Church.**

Concluding Prayer:

Gracious God,
....You have now entrusted this child N to her/his family.
Strengthen N and N by your Holy Spirit,
and help this congregation
to be a caring community in Christ.
May N be brought by grace
to the sacrament of baptism,
and come, with all your people,
to the fullness of your kingdom of love and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BAPTISM - Confession of Faith & Responses

Confession of Faith

The Uniting Church, in baptising children,
takes responsibility for their instruction
and nourishment in the faith.

That we may know that you hold the Christian faith
and claim your membership in Christ's Church,
we ask you:

Minister: (addressing the parents)

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ
who has defeated the power of sin and death
and brought us new life?

I turn to Christ.

Do you commit yourself to God,
trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour
and in the Holy Spirit
as God's power and presence along the way?

I commit myself to God.

Responses

N and N, I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to N
by making these solemn promises:

Will you encourage N's growth within the Christian community,
guiding him/her through participation in the worship,
nurture and fellowship of the Church
to a mature Christian faith?

With God's help, we will.

Will you, by word and example,
teach him/her the way of Christ
until the Spirit draws him/her
to make his/her own response in faith and love?

With God's help, we will.