TWO SERVICES	THANKSGIVING & BLESSING FOR A CHILD	SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
SERVICES	BLESSING FOR A CHILD	BAPTISM
YOUR MOTIVATION	To give thanks for God's gift of your child	To Acknowledge that your child belongs to God
	To seek God's help in the responsible task of parenthood	To bring your child to be received into the family of God
		To seek the help of God and the Church to enable your child to grow as a Christian.
INVOLVING	Public Christian thanksgiving  Prayers for the parents and child	Public confession of Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and acknowledgement of sin.
	Blessing of the child	Promise to provide a Christian home and an opportunity for your child to grow up in the life of the Church
		This is expressed in regular participation in the public worship of the congregation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion
MEANING	An acknowledgement:  - that God desires the best for you	Receiving what Christ has done through His death and resurrection to give you new life
	and your child	Christ makes you one of God's people
	- that the Church can help you and your child to come to a full faith in	Pledging your life to God
	Jesus Christ	Committing yourself to being a Christian family, at home, and through your participation in the worship life of the Church
OUR PART	We offer you our prayers and support	To nurture you within the fellowship and worship of the Church family
	We encourage you to worship with us and offer our help wherever it is needed	To nurture you in your faith in Jesus Christ
		To encourage and help you to grow as a Christian family

#### 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:

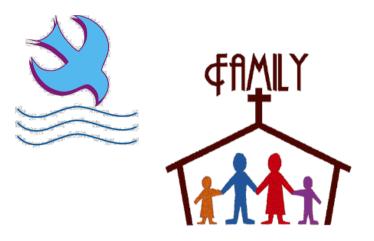
Will you encourage N's growth within the Christian community, guiding him/her through participation in the worship, nurture and fellowship of the Church to a mature Christian faith?

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.

# 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.