

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND THE REAFFIRMATION
OF BAPTISM CALLED CONFIRMATION AND PREAMBLE
WORSHIP RESOURCES**

(Edited to show only the proposed additional options)

The following may be used as a Call to Worship at the commencement of any service in which baptism is to be celebrated

We recall Isaiah's promise:

"waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert";

Ezekiel's declaration:

"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean";

the Psalmist's testimony:

"Beside the still waters, God leads me";

and Jesus' words:

"whoever gives even a cup of cold water
to one of these little ones—
truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

May God's Spirit be upon us

and these waters of daily use,

which we now use to baptize and to welcome.

Isaiah 35:6

Ezekiel 36:25

Psalm 23:2

Matthew 10:42

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3 SCRIPTURE

One or more of these additional readings may be used.

People were bringing little children to Jesus
in order that he might bless them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,
"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive
the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it."

And Jesus took them up in his arms,
laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

(From "The Service Book for the use of Ministers", The United Church of Canada, 1969. Used with permission)

4 THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

The minister or elder addresses the congregation.

OR

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.

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7 THE BAPTISM

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the person's forehead. Olive oil may be used for this purpose (see Note 18).

The minister says:

N, from this day on, the sign of the cross is upon you.

OR

N., with the sign of the cross,
you become one with Christ, the Anointed One.

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BAPTISMAL CANDLE

Other symbolic actions such as clothing in a new garment and/or the presentation of a Bible may be incorporated as part of the Baptism. The stole is a sign of ministry, symbolised by the towel Jesus used when he washed the feet of the disciples. These actions may be done in silence or with words such as those suggested below....

Presentation of a Bible

A Bible may be presented with words such as the following.

Receive this book, our Holy Scriptures,
and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and to the Church.

Clothing in a New Garment or Baptismal Stole

The presider or another representative of the congregation may place a special garment on the newly baptized, or drape a baptismal stole around his or her shoulders with words such as the following.

You have put on Christ,
in Christ you have been baptised.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

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PREAMBLE WORSHIP RESOURCES

Prayer of Confession (to be said in unison)

Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, acknowledge with sorrow the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land.

We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture and spirituality despised and suppressed.

We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively involved in it.

We acknowledge with sorrow that in our own time the injustice and abuse has continued.
we have been indifferent when we should have been outraged,
we have been apathetic when we should have been active,
we have been silent when we should have spoken out.

Gracious God, forgive us for our failures, past and present.
By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts so that we may
boldly speak your truth and courageously do your will.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (to be said in unison)

We declare our faith in God as Creator of the universe, the world in which we live, and all living things on the face of the earth.

We believe that creation bears witness to the power and the presence of the Triune God and calls us as God's people to praise, thanksgiving and responsible stewardship of the earth.

We celebrate the richness and diversity of culture and language in our world knowing that under God we are united in our common humanity.

We declare our faith in God as Spirit, breath of life, always at work to bring people alive to God.

We believe that this same Spirit has been present and active in every race and culture, preparing hearts and minds to hear and receive the good news of God's love and grace revealed uniquely in Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the fact that from the beginning the Spirit was present and active in revealing God through the law, custom and ceremony of the First Peoples of this ancient land.

We declare our faith in Jesus, Saviour and Lord, who brought the church into being and prayed for its unity.

We believe that in Christ we are brothers and sisters together in the one great family of God, called to live in faith, hope and love for the sake of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

We celebrate the opportunity to learn, grow and serve together as a pilgrim people in the name of Christ.

Word of Mission

People of God,
go from here to live out the covenant into which we,
the First and Second Peoples of this land, have entered
with one another.

Confront and challenge injustice wherever you see it.

Act justly yourselves and insist that others do the same.

Rejoice in the richness of our diverse cultures and learn from them.

Celebrate and demonstrate the unity we share in Jesus our Lord.

Commit to worship, witness and serve as one people under God.