

Will you encourage *them* by the way you think, pray, speak, and live, to join with us in following Jesus?

Answer: With God's help we will.

Will you help *them*
to cherish *their* place in the community
and share the precious resources of God's world?

Answer: With God's help we will.

The Minister may ask any older brothers and sisters:

Will you help your *parents*, and play together with, love,
and look after *N and N*?

Answer: With God's help we will.

The Minister asks the godparents:

Will you help *these parents* to bring up *N and N* in the way
they have promised?

Answer: With God's help we will.

The Minister invites everyone to stand and says:

Members of *N's and N's families and* friends; near, far, and
in Christ's Church, together, will you help *these parents* to
bring up *their children* in the way *they have* promised; and
will you maintain a common life of worship and service so
that you and they may grow in the love and knowledge of
God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ?

All **With God's help we will.**

Prayer for Others

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn & Offering

Blessing and Call to Discipleship

Minister Let us bless one another that we might bless others:

All **Generous God, touch us again with the fire of your
Spirit and renew in us all the grace of our baptism;
that together we may grow, die, and rise in the faith,
hope, and love of Christ for all. Amen!**

A Service of Worship Including The Baptism Of Young Children

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn

Prayer

Thanksgiving and Naming (*To each family in turn:*)

Minister Who are we rejoicing over today?

What name have you given *this child*?

Each *child's name* is given and the Minister says:

N and N, God has made you and known you from your
beginning, God cares for you and has great challenges
and hopes for you.

Hymn

Introduction to Baptism

First What does baptism mean? Baptism is a way of saying

Steps to everyone, in public, that we know something of the

Secretary truth that God is love. And this means that God loves each
person for who they are, without exception.

Baptism is the way of welcoming people into the life of
God's Church. The Church is the family of people in this
place, and all over the world, who try to follow Jesus' way
of living. Loving God and people the way Jesus has shown
is the most rewarding thing to do, but it can also be the
most difficult and costly thing to do.

Baptism is the sign of the new life in Christ which God
offers to all people. The fruit of this new life is seen in
people whose lives change as Christ's Spirit produces
love, joy, peace, patience, compassion, generosity,
faithfulness, humility and self-control.

A Bible Reading about Baptism

Such as: Mark ch.1 v.9-11, or Mark ch.10 v.13-16, or
Matthew ch.28 v.18-20, or Acts ch.2 v.38-39.

Jesus calls us to come to him and go out to others. He
enables us to receive and offer the costly love and free
grace of God.

The Request for Baptism

Minister Having heard these things, how do you respond to God's offer of the gift of grace?

Parents We/I thank God, and ask that *N and N* be baptized.

Thanksgiving over Water

Water may be poured into the font while the Minister says:

Generous God, we thank you for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit, and for life which flows from them. We thank you for leading your people to freedom from oppression through the waters of the Red Sea. We thank you: that Jesus was baptized; that he confronted evil in society and in people, who plunged him into the deep waters of death; and that you raised him to new life through and beyond rejection and death.

Pour out your Holy Spirit so that *those* baptized in this water may live as you call, dying to selfishness, confronting evil, and rising to new life in Christ, for the benefit of all people.

All **Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

Minister Please stand and let us affirm our faith:

All **We believe in, trust, and follow God:
The Creator - making everything in love
and each person like God;
The Christ – gracefully subverting
everyone's denying this, in his
living, execution, and resurrection;
And The Spirit - identifying our brokenness,
and working for reconciliation
in drawing us to God
and sending us to others.**

The Baptism

The Minister may ask the congregation to be seated and says to those to be baptized:

Jesus Christ came into the world for you, he prays for you, all before you could know anything of it. In your baptism

the words of the Bible are fulfilled: "We love, because God first loved us". So we baptize *these children*, and then respond to God's love in prayer.

The Minister baptizes each child with water saying:

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

All **Amen.**

The Minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each child, saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ. Do not be ashamed to confess and live in the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Amen.**

Welcome

The First Steps Secretary welcomes each child to God's local and world-wide Church family, and may take each child around the congregation to introduce them to everyone.

A baptism candle, certificate and gift may be presented.

Everyone prays for God's blessing on each child:

All **God bless you and protect you;
God's face shine on you
and God be gracious to you;
God look with kindness on you
and give you peace. Amen.**

Hymn

Bible Reading(s)

Message

Hymn

Promises and Prayers (To each family in turn:)

The Minister asks the parents:

I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace to you, and to *N and N*, by making these promises:

Will you love *N and N*, committing *yourselves* to care for *them* in body, mind and spirit?

Answer: With God's help we will.