

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***Pastor:** Beloved in Christ, through the sacrament of baptism God gives us new birth through water and the Spirit, includes us in Christ's holy church, and makes us part of the salvation of the world.*

So we come to the water – yes, everyone who thirsts! Come to the waters, water of new birth, poured out and flowing freely for all who will receive it; water of justice rolling down, water of righteousness like an everflowing stream, a spring of water in us gushing up to eternal life, the river of God for the healing of the world.

We come to this water because our souls thirst for you, O God, as in a dry and weary land.

***Pastor [To presenters]:** Who presents these persons to be baptized?*

Kelli Howard: I present Claire Floyd to be baptized.

Jamie Bourcy: I present Emma Souza to be baptized.

***Pastor [To Claire and Emma]:** We come to this water as a community.*

Renunciation of Sin and Baptismal Vows

All: We come to this water to renew our love as siblings in Christ, and to renew our baptism in the death and resurrection of Christ.

***Pastor:** Do you, Christ's Body, the church, reaffirm your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?*

We do.

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are and in all that you do?

We will live as faithful members of the Body of Christ and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you nurture one another in living the faith through the church and include these persons in your care?

With God's help, we will embody the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will surround Claire and Emma with faith, hope, and love that they may grow in grace and faith and learn to trust God and living in loving service in the world.

We will pray for them and walk with them on their journey of discipleship among us.

Profession of Faith (The Apostles Creed)

Let us join in professing our faith.

Do you trust in God?

I believe in Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you follow Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, he rose again, he ascended into heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of God. Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you live by the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Spirit of God is among us.

The blessing of the Beloved is upon us! Let us pray:

Loving, life-giving God, we give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you brought forth Creation. You brought us to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea. You gave us new birth through baptism into Christ, and gave us eternal life.

The river of God is full of water, the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the heart of God.

We who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into his life, born in the water of a womb; we are baptized into his ministry, giving water to the thirsty, washing the feet and sharing the tears of all who suffer; and we are baptized into his death, so that just as Christ was raised by the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

Born of water and the Spirit, may we enter into the Realm of God who chose us to be adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. We have been ransomed through Christ's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this water and bless the ones who receive it, that claimed by your Word, nourished in your grace, washed from all sin and borne by your Spirit, they may live in freedom, trust, and

courage, sharing in the eternal life of Christ.

Claire/Emma, you are God's Beloved in whom God is well pleased. You are baptized in water and anointed with oil so that you may grow in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church, let us welcome our new sisters in Christ!

Claire and Emma, children of God, claimed by water and the Spirit, you are joined to God's new creation. We are one in Christ Jesus, sharing in Christ's royal priesthood. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of Christ's holy church. Amen.

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.