

Baptism **(Infant, Child and Adult)**

Statement of Purpose:

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,
and united with one another and the Christian community.
We are commissioned for the work of Christ in the world.

With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the faith we all share, and rededicate ourselves to the life and work of the body of Christ.

Let us pray:

God our Maker, we praise you for your creation, and especially for life new and renewed. We rejoice and thank you for the life of _____ given in love to _____ and _____ as their child(ren). We pray that _____ and _____ will, in their loving, guiding, and nurturing of their child, be strengthened and aided by the power and presence of your love in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(Chair of Council)

On behalf of the Port Nelson United Church family,
I present the following person(s) for baptism:

Promises of the Individuals

As you seek to raise your child in the Christian faith by living out our shared values, I ask you the following:

Will you love the Lord your God?

We will. (I will.)

Trusting in God's love for all of us, will you turn from the forces of evil and embrace God's goodness?

We will. (I will.)

Will you, with God's help, contribute to a sense of community by being willing to share your gifts?

We will. (I will.)

Will you, with God's help, be inclusive by welcoming everyone, no matter their age, race, gender, culture, belief, ability or sexual orientation?

We will. (I will.)

Will you, with God's help, care for others by doing to them as you would have them do to you?

We will. (I will.)

Will you, with God's help, continue to grow spiritually through worship, prayer, study, service, action and in other ways?

We will. (I will.)

Will you, with God's help, shout for joy to the Lord, and in God's world, worship with others around you?

We will. (I will.)

Will you, with God's help, share God's love by reaching out to others and our world?

We will. (I will.)

(For infant/child baptism)

In baptism, _____ marks an important step in his/her faith journey. Will you, with God's help, strive to share these values with _____ and make for her/him a home where they may be lived out?

We will. (I will.)

(To Godparents, if applicable)

It is an ancient custom of Christ's church that persons may present themselves as godparents to assist in the care and Christian nurture of children.

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you, with God's help, support and pray for this/these child(ren) and their parent(s) in their journey?

We will.

(Congregational Pledge)

We as a church family, through our baptism, are called to share in Christ's ministry.

Let us rise and pledge to these persons our support and care.

Will you, with God's help, reach out to one another and our world, as we grow spiritually in a caring, inclusive, Christian community enriched by meaningful worship?

We will.

Will you, who form the community of love in which our shared values are lived out, keep these individuals in your hearts and prayers, and give an example of community, being inclusive, caring, growing spiritually, meaningful worship and reaching out to them all, with God's help?

We will.

Let us profess our faith together: (A New Creed)

We are not alone,

We live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(Pouring of Water into font)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and Holy God,

we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water,

that this font may be your womb of new birth,

and that this water may be a sign for all

of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The Act of Baptism

_____,
I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Let all the people say...**Amen.**

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

(Laying on of hands)

_____, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,

that being born of water and the Spirit,

you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Giving of a lit candle)

_____, receive the light of Christ!

Welcome

Into the household of faith,

we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We receive you as part of God's family.

In the name of Christ, we welcome you!