

Certificate of Christian Baptism

BY THE



Person's Full Name

HOW TO PREPARE FOR BAPTISM

- 1) Pray about this.
 - 2) Contact a pastor. The pastor will coordinate with the elders to schedule the baptism.
 - 3) Set a date.
 - 4) Invite relatives or friends to worship- make it a celebration!
 - 5) Decide on options:
 1. Who will be assisting elder? Do they want to have a prayer?
 2. Do you wish to have a sponsor/ sponsor couple or do you wish for the whole congregation to be the child's sponsor?
 - 6) The minister will call you down front after the announcements for the service of baptism.
- (Note: After baptism, you may stay or take your child to the nursery.)

Certificate of Infant Baptism

This Certifies that
Person's full name
Child of
Parent's, if child is being baptized

Born in City, State

On Month ##, 20##

Received
Christian Baptism

2018

At Lake Murray Presbyterian Church
2721 Dutch Fork Road, Chapin, South Carolina

Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Senior Minister

Rev. Blaine Hill, Associate Minister

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TO INFANTS

[Dr. Sloan says:]

Baptism is a sign and seal of our incorporation into Christ. In Baptism, we are pointed back to the grace of God expressed in Jesus Christ who died for our sins and is raised to show us our hope. Baptism symbolizes the washing away of sins, and being clean before God. Baptism is a sign and seal that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives with grace. In each baptism, we encourage you to remember your own baptism and that you are Christ's and you are One.

We baptize infants being aware that the scriptures say that the promise is for us and for our children and all who are far off. Infant baptism in the New Testament signifies the similar covenant and cleansing in the Old Testament's rite of circumcision which was performed on babies eight days old. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and forbid them not." So we welcome these little ones into the church in baptism, indicating they are included in the blessing and grace of God. At this time I call the **[xxxxxx]** family forward.

[(Elder ___) :] "On behalf of the session I **[full name]** for baptism."

[Rev. Hill asks the following questions of the parents:]

1. Do you reaffirm your own faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
2. Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, pray for your child's faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

[Rev. Hill will ask the Congregation the following question:]

Do you, as members of the whole church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture **[name]** so that in due time s/he may confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and may be strengthened in his ties to the household of God?

[Rev. Hill, Let us Pray:]

We give you thanks, Eternal God, that you nourish, sustain, and cleanse living things by the gift of water. We thank you for the Church of Jesus Christ and for the waters of Baptism. We praise you that you have given us gracious promises concerning our children, and in mercy you call them to yourself, marking them with this Sacrament as a token and pledge of your Love, through Jesus Christ our One Lord, Amen.

[Dr. Sloan will take the child and ask the parents:]

What is the Christian name of this child?

[full name] , Child of the Covenant, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

[Dr. Sloan declares:] **[name]** is now a Baptized member of the Church of Christ and has been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever. We have promised to be his Godparents. Jesus said, "Whoever receives a little child in my name, receives me."

[Dr. Sloan's Closing Prayer:] Bless, O God, **[name]**, that s/he may grow up to know you and the fullness of your blessings in life. Give these parents and this congregation grace to fulfill the vows made today on his behalf. Thank you for baptism that cleanses, seals and unites us to Christ and to each other and gives us the hope of heaven. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES ABOUT BAPTISM:

And Jesus said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

[After Pentecost, the people asked] "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that our sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far off, to all whom the Lord our God calls." Acts 2:37-39

CONCERNING THE WELCOMING OF CHILDREN:

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. And he laid his hands on them." Matthew 19:14

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me." Matthew 18:4

LINKS TO CIRCUMCISION

"This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you...you shall be circumcised. It will be a sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised." Genesis 17:10-12

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men, but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism. Col. 2:11,12

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

HOUSEHOLD BAPTISMS: Acts 16:15,33,34' I Cor. 1:16 (cf. ACTS 10:47,48; 11;14) – Of the 12 recorded New Testament baptisms, 3 were whole households, though we do not know how young the children were.

SPRINKLING AS A MEANS FOR CLEANSING:

The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized in the desert: (Acts 8:36)

Paul's baptism: "Stand up and be baptized." (Acts 22:12-16; 9:17,18)

In the Old Testament the term for sprinkling blood/water/oil on the people for cleansing was baptizo- (Numbers 19:19-21; Lev. 11:5-40; 14:2-32; 12:15)



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