

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

In baptism,
God names us as God's own beloved children;
God promises to be our God
and welcomes us into the family of Christ;
God makes Christ's death and resurrection for us
present to us and at work in us.
The baptism of believers' children especially makes visible
the prevenient nature of grace—
that God reaches out to, and accepts, us
before we reach out to, and accept, God.
At the same time, in baptism,
we acknowledge for ourselves and our children
the gift and claim of God's grace,
and we commit ourselves and our children
to live out of God's grace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.
Thus, baptism marks the birth, at any age,
of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION

Who is presented for baptism?
Nicholas Robert Boyd
Theodore Fitzgerald and Knox Alexander Boyd
Sons of Nick and Maggie Boyd

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nick,
on this day of your Baptism,
we invite you to publicly profess your faith
in Jesus Christ for the first time,
affirming these vows both for yourself
and for your children,
who you promise to raise in Christian community.
Maggie,
we invite you to re-affirm the faith
in which you have been Baptized
through these vows:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture these children in Christ's Church,
that by your teaching and example
they may be guided
to accept God's grace for themselves,
to profess their faith openly,
and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

Do you as Christ's church
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture these persons in the Christian faith and life,
praying for them, teaching them, and leading them
in acts of service and mission?

We will.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM WITH THE LAYING OF HANDS

ANOINTING WITH OIL

Following the biblical custom of anointing prophets (I Kings 19:36), priests (Exodus 29:7) and kings (I Kings 1:39), candidates are anointed at their baptism as a reminder that all Christians share in the royal, prophetic, priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

A candle, lighted from the Paschal Candle, is presented to the newly baptized to signify that the light of the One who overcame the darkness of sin and death now shines in his or her life.

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Nick, Teddy, and Knox,
we give thanks that God has claimed you
with an everlasting love that will never, ever let you go;
and we will never let you forget that!

**We rejoice to welcome you as our brothers
in the family of Christ.**

**Our story is now your story:
you have ridden in the ark with Noah;
you have passed through the sea with Moses;
Christ's death and resurrection for you is at work in you,
transforming you into the image of God.**

**Grow with us in grace,
confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his royal priesthood.**

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Nick and Maggie,
having affirmed your faith
and received the Sacrament of Baptism,
I ask you to make these vows of membership:
As members of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?
I will.

As members of First United Methodist Church,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?
I will.

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope,
and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**Together with you,
we will form a community of love and forgiveness.
We will proclaim God's good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully
to participate in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**