

THE CELEBRATION OF INFANT BAPTISM:

order of service **and role of Worship Committee representative.**

Preparation of elements:

the **presider** (presiding Minister) ensures that a baptismal certificate and candle have been written up, and that there is water in the pitcher, and that the font/baptismal bowl is on the table. **There is a place for the worship committee representative to sign the certificate.** Traditionally, sterilized water from the Bow River (and a couple of drops of water from the Jordan) is used – and warmed slightly!

Just before the service begins, it is helpful for the Worship Committee representative to touch base with the family, to put them at ease and ensure that they are seated either at the front of the sanctuary, or on an aisle.

Statement of Purpose: the Call to Worship will introduce the theme of baptism

Baptismal Hymn: parents, children, godparents come forward during the hymn

Presentation of Candidates : **by a member of Worship Committee**

On behalf of the congregation of Ralph Connor Memorial United Church,
I present N – son/daughter of N and N
for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promises:

The presider asks the parents to answer questions of faith. If there are godparents they will usually stand with the parents. Typically the font is on the communion table, near the front of the dias; the presider is standing on the dais, near the piano, facing the parents; parents are on the main floor of the Church in front of the pulpit, looking toward the presider.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

*Water is poured, visibly and audibly, **most usually by a member of the family, or by a child within the congregation**, as the following prayer is said by the presider.*

Gracious and Holy God,
May your Spirit always be upon us and what we do,
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Act of Baptism:

a. Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

*The presider may ask the name of the candidate.
The presider pours or sprinkles water generously and visibly three times on the candidate's head, or immerses the candidate, while reciting the triune baptismal words.*

b. Marking with the Sign of the Cross

The presider marks the newly baptized person's forehead with the sign of the cross.

c. Blessing

N., 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.

Welcoming of the newly-baptized : the congregation stands

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.

We welcome you into the community of faith.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.

Presentation of Candle and Certificate

The presider and worship committee rep shake hands with the parents and give them the baptismal certificate and candle. If desired, the candle may be lit from the Christ candle, and remain lit until the parents are seated.

Remaining verses of Baptismal Hymn (all participants return to their pews)