

St Matthew-in-the-City

Baptism Service



Welcome

God's Call

Priest: E te whanau a te Karaiti / Dear friends in Christ,
God is love, God gives us life.
We love because God first loves us.
In baptism God declares that love;
in Christ God calls us to respond.

The Presentation

Priest: _____ who do you bring for baptism?

Parent[s]: We present _____ to be baptised
and made a member of the Body of Christ, the church.

Priest: From the beginning the Church has received believers by baptism. Believers' children have also been baptised so that with help and encouragement they should grow up in Christ and by the grace of God serve Christ all the days of their life. On the day when the apostles first preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection, Peter urged his hearers 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus the Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God may call.'

[Names] How do you respond to this promise?

Parents and godparents:

We hear God's call and ask for baptism

Priest: Do you renounce all evil influences and powers that rebel against God?

Parents and godparents:

I renounce all evil.

Priest: Do you trust in Christ's victory
which brings forgiveness, freedom and life?

Parents and god parents:

**In faith I turn to Christ. My way, my truth, my life,
as I care for this child.**

All: **May God keep you in the way you have chosen.**

A Reading

The Baptism

Priest: Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All: **whose promise endures forever**

Priest: We thank you God for your love in all creation,
especially for your gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant
with your people Israel;
through the Red Sea waters
you led them to freedom in the promised land.
In the waters of the Jordan
your Son was baptised by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death
Jesus fulfilled his baptism.
He died to set us free
and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.
It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

All: **Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

Priest: We thank you that through the waters of baptism
you cleanse us,
renew us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life.

In the new covenant
we are made members of your Church
and share in your eternal kingdom.

Through your Holy Spirit,
fulfil once more your promises
in this water of rebirth,
set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour,
power and might,
be to our God forever and ever.
Amen!**

Priest: _____, I baptise you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
He iri-iri tenei naku i a koe,
i runga i te ingoa o te Matua,
te Tama, me te Wairua Tapu

All: **Amen. God receives you by baptism into the Church.
Child of God, blessed in the Spirit,
welcome to the family of Christ.**

Priest: We sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

A candle is given and the giver says:

Walk in the faith of Christ, crucified and risen.
Shine with the light of Christ.

The Affirmation

Priest: Praise to God who has given us life.

All: **Blessed be God for the gift of love.**

Priest: Praise to God who forgives our sin.

All: **Blessed be God who sets us free.**

Priest: Praise to God who kindles our faith.

All: **Blessed be God, our strength, our hope.**

Priest: Let us, the baptised,
affirm that we renounce evil and commit our lives to Christ.

All: **Blessed be God, Jesus is Lord!**

Priest: What is your faith?

Parents and godparents:

**I believe and trust in God the Father,
maker and sustainer of all things;
and in God the Son, my saviour Jesus Christ;
and in God the Holy Spirit, giver of life and truth.
This is my faith.**

Priest: How then will you care for this child?

Parents and godparents:

I will love this child and share my faith with her/him.

Priest: As a community of faith we rejoice at this baptism and will share with ____ what we ourselves have received: a delight in prayer, a love for the word of God, a desire to follow the way of Christ, and food for the journey. _____, you are now a pilgrim with us. As a member of Christ's body, the church, you will be challenged to affirm your faith in God and receive the laying on of hands in confirmation. May you grow in the Holy Spirit, fulfil your ministry and follow Christ you whole life long.

The priest then prays for and blesses the family:

God bless you with wisdom and love;
may this child find in you, your homes and families,
Christ's love and understanding. Amen.

All: **God of love,
we thank you for our calling to be disciples of Christ.
Help us to nurture this child in the faith we share.
May s/he grow to love, worship and serve you,
and bring life to the world. Amen.**

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St Matthew-in-the-City
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