



BAPTISM



What is baptism?

Baptism and Communion are the two sacraments instituted by Christ. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Baptism is the outward and public act that symbolizes important spiritual truths.

- Washing of Sin (Titus 3:4)
- Identification with Christ's death and resurrection; we "die" to sin and are raised again to life in Christ (Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-6)
- Baptism is a public act because the Christian life is not to be lived alone (Acts 2:41)

Baptism and salvation

Baptism is described in the Bible as a practice for those who believe in Christ. Thus it is not the baptism that makes you Christian, but the Christian that chooses baptism. Scripture promises that salvation comes through belief (John 3:16) and that nothing we do earns this grace. (Ephesians 2:8-9) Baptism is a one-time decision by those who believe in Christ and wish to publicly demonstrate their faith and obedience.

What if I was baptized as an infant?

While baptism is a one-time practice in a Christian's life (Ephesians 4:5), we believe there can be exceptions. We recognize this especially in those situations where a person was baptized in their youth, before understanding their faith decision or the meaning and significance of baptism. In these cases, baptism would be an appropriate choice.

Does the church baptize infants?

Christ Church does not baptize infants as they are too young to understand and profess their faith. Instead, we dedicate young children and infants as a way of honoring the parent's heart and God's Word (1 Sam 1:27-28; Luke 2:22).

Do I need to be fully immersed (under water)?

The Greek word used in the New Testament for baptism contains the meaning "to dip or submerge." Therefore, Christ Church also chooses to baptize with full immersion. There are of course exceptions in environments where water is scarce or when it may be unsafe or very difficult to immerse somebody.

Preparation for baptism:

The most important part of preparing is to enter into a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ. It might be good for you to consider your journey or testimony. This could often be told in 2-3 minutes or written on a single page. It highlights 3 things: 1) what was life like before learning about Christ, 2) how did you come to learn about Christ and choose to follow him, and 3) how has life been different since placing your faith in him?

Another way to prepare for baptism is to spend some time reading and reflecting on the significance of baptism as reflected in the Bible. *(See below for some helpful scriptures.)*

Baptism at Christ Church:

When will baptism happen?

Christ Church has two baptism ceremonies each year. The first ceremony is generally held in March at one of partner churches at an inside baptismal. The second ceremony is held in August at our annual church picnic in an outdoor lake or pond.

How do I register to be baptized?

Visit www.christchurchil/baptism where you can learn more and apply for baptism.

What should I wear?

Modest clothing. Loose, dark, comfortable clothing that can get wet. Remove belts, phones, watches, that could be damaged. Bring 2 towels and perhaps a change of clothes.

Do I need to be a member?

Christ Church baptizes members and non-members alike, though membership may be a great next step in your journey after baptism.

Some Scriptures about Baptism:

Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus commands baptism (Matthew 28:18-20)

Baptism symbolizes cleansing (Titus 3:4-5)

True cleansing in Christ (1 Peter 3:21)

New life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:12)

Baptism is public (Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12-13)

Christ Church

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