

Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation



Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's Holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of Salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation, we declare our faith in Jesus Christ, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.



Presentation of Confirmation Class of 2011

Mentors:

Having met with and recognizing an attitude of spiritual commitment, I would like to present _____
_____ for membership into this Body of Christ.



To the Confirmation Class:

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of your sins?

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

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?



As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries?

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presences, you gifts, your service, and your witness?



To the Body of Christ

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

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

All: With God's help we will proclaim the Good News and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround them with a community of love and forgiveness that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to eternal life.



Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments:
Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.



Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.



Without God having acted first, we would be unable to move toward God. The good news is that in Jesus Christ, God has come to us to do what we were unable to do for ourselves. What God offers us must be accepted in repentance and acted on in faith. Confirmation and baptism express our commitment to the cause of Christ, our profession of faith in Christ, and our dedication to serve as Christ's representatives to the world by serving and caring for one another.



Let us pray...

Eternal Father, When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

All: Sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.



In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

All: Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.



Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this living water and those who receive it, to wash away their sins, and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

All: All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen



Blessing the Confirmands

Remember you baptism and be thankful.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.



A CONFIRMATION PRAYER

Holy Spirit of God; Take me as Your disciple.

Guide me, illuminate me, Sanctify me.

Bind my hands, that they may do no evil.

Cover my eyes, that they may see it no more.

Sanctify my heart, that evil may not dwell within me.

You are my God. You are my guide. You are my life.

Whatsoever You forbid me, I will renounce.

And whatsoever You commend me, in Your strength I will do.

Lead me then unto the fullness of Your truth, grace, and life.

Grant to me the power of Your Holy Spirit to live with gratitude and lead with grace until at last I hear Your voice speak my name and say, “Well done good and faithful servant.” Amen.

