

# The Baptismal Covenant I

*Holy Baptism of a Child or an Adult  
The United Methodist Hymnal*

## DEACON

It is our joy this morning to celebrate the baptism of *Name*. Congregational responses may be found on *appropriate page in UMH or on insert or wherever*.

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.

I present *First Name Middle Name Last Name* for Christian baptism.

## ELDER

*Ask the parents/sponsors (if candidate is unable to answer) or candidate:*

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 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 all people?

**I do.**

*For infants and small children, address parents or sponsors.*

Will you nurture this child  
In Christ's holy 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.**

[OR

*For those who can answer for themselves*

According to the grace given to you,

Will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

**I will]**

*Turn and address congregation.*

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 this person now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news**

**And live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround *Name***

**With a community of love and forgiveness,**

**That he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,**

**That he may be a true disciple**

**Who walks in the way that leads to 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?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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?  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
[the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.]**

### **DEACON**

*Hands up in the orans*  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Eternal God, 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.

**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.

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

*Hands down. Pour water into the fount.*

### **ELDER**

*Hands down over the water (or even in it, letting it run through your fingers)*  
Pour out your Holy Spirit,

To bless this gift of water and all those who receive it,  
To wash away their sin  
And clothe them in righteousness  
Throughout their lives,  
That, dying and being raised with Christ,  
They may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal God,  
Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
Who with you and the Holy Spirit  
Lives and reigns forever, Amen.**

*Transfer baby or pick up child or lead candidate to the fount.  
First I baptize you in the name of the Father, (water)  
the Son, (water),  
and the Holy Spirit (water). Amen.*

*Place hands on candidate.  
The Holy Spirit work within you,  
That being born through water and the Spirit,  
You may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.*

#### **DEACON**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new *sibling* in Christ.

**Through baptism  
You are incorporated by the Holy Spirit  
Into God's new creation  
And made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.  
We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you  
As members of the family of Christ.**

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.

# The Great Thanksgiving

*Word and Table, Service I  
The United Methodist Hymnal*

## DEACON

*Arms out, bent at elbows in the orans position behind the table. Invite congregation to stand as they are able, and turn to whatever setting of the Great Thanksgiving you are using in the hymnal.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. *Lift your hands a little bit more.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## ELDER

It is a right, and a good, and joyful thing everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

And spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with all your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and  
join their unending hymn:

*Clasp hands in front. (This is really lovely sung)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Resume the orans position*

Holy are you and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,

To proclaim release to the captives,

And recovering of sight to the blind,

To set at liberty those who are oppressed,

And to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,

You gave birth to your Church,

Delivered us from the slavery of sin and death,

And made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,

In the power of your word and Holy Spirit.

*Touch and lift bread, show to the congregation.*

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,

He took bread, gave thanks to you, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

*Gently put the bread down.*

*Touch and lift cup, show to the congregation.*

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said,

"Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*Gently put the cup down.*

## **DEACON**

*Raise hands in the orans.*

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,

As a holy and living sacrifice,

In union with Christ's offering for us,

As we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*Clasp hands in front*

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

## **ELDER**

*Hands, palms down, toward the congregation*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

*Hands, palms down, on the bread and cup*

And on these gifts of bread and wine.

*Hands open, palms up*

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

That we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

*Hands up in the orans*

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

One with each other,

And one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes again in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DEACON**

*Invite the congregation to be seated. Arms open in invitation.*

And so, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### ELDER

*Break the bread. Separate the two halves and hold them in silence for a moment.*  
Because there is one loaf,  
We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.  
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
*Put the bread down.*

*Lift the cup.*  
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
*Put the cup down.*

### DEACON

*Wraps the bread and gets the chalices ready while the elder is offering the invitation.*

In the United Methodist Church, we practice what is called an open table. We believe that this table belongs to Christ, and Christ alone, and no matter who you are, you are invited to come and meet him in this holy meal.

So, come to the table,  
You who have much faith,  
And you who would like to have more.  
You who depend on this sacrament,  
And you who for whom it is brand new.  
You who have tried to follow Jesus,  
And you who have failed.  
Come. Christ invites us to meet him here.  
The feast is ready.

*Offer any instructions about communion: where/how it happens (Intinction? At the railing? Are there gluten free elements available?) ALWAYS say something to the effect of, "If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, we will come to you!"*

### DEACON AND ELDER

*Hand sanitize and serve the servers if you have them. Designate someone to serve you. Send servers on their way and make a gesture of welcome from in front of the table (so people know to get moving).*

*As you serve, say (this or some variation of)*  
The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.  
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

## DEACON

*After all have received communion, reassemble the table: cover the bread and cup with napkins.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery

In which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,

To give ourselves for others,

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*This prayer can also be done as a unison prayer.*