



Preparing For Your Baptism

The elders of Christ Covenant Church rejoice that you are preparing to be baptized. Below are some instructions to make sure you are ready to go for Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ventura (aaron@christcovenantcentralia.com, 360-990-3196).

We typically conduct baptisms right after the Scripture Reading portion of the worship service. Pastor Ventura will invite those who are being baptized to come forward to the baptismal waters, and your family (or close friends) are welcome to stand with you.

When everyone is gathered and in place, Pastor Ventura will say a few words about the meaning of baptism, and then he will administer the vows. You can read a sample of this service on the next page.

Q1. What should I wear?

For Baptisms by Sprinkling/Pouring:

- If you (or your child) is being baptized via sprinkling/pouring, the water will be poured onto the head, and so you probably won't need a full change of clothes. However, you may want to bring an extra shirt and a towel just in case. Wear whatever you don't mind getting a little wet.

For Baptisms by Immersion:

- Please arrive to church wearing whatever you are going to be baptized in. For modesty, please wear a dark colored (non-see-through) outfit. You are welcome to wear swim trunks and a t-shirt if you like, but be prepared to go through the first portion of the service in this outfit.
- You will also want to bring 1) a full change of clothes (you can change in the restroom afterwards), and 2) a towel or bath robe.

Q2. Do I need to memorize the baptismal vows?

- No. You are welcome to simply answer "Yes" to all of the baptismal vows (except the one asking your name). Or, if you like, you can give the full sentence response, ex. "Yes. I renounce them."

Sample Baptismal Liturgy

Minister invites the candidate for baptism to come forward.

Minister:

In the Christian church, baptism is a sign and seal of God's New Covenant promises. These promises are set forth in Ezekiel 36 where God says:

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (Ezek. 36:25-27)

Baptism is a visible sign of *these* invisible spiritual realities.

- In baptism you are united to Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4, Gal. 3:27).
- In baptism your sins are washed away, your heart is cleansed, and you are made pure by the blood of Jesus (Acts 22:16, Titus 3:5).
- In baptism you are born again, as Jesus says in John 3, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

This baptism is your formal entrance into the kingdom. It is what seals you as a member of the visible church, and it is what grants you access to partake of the Lord's Supper with us, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body” (1 Cor. 12:13).

Therefore, it is with great joy and solemnity that I ask you the following questions:

Question: Do you desire to be baptized?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you renounce the devil and all his works?

Answer: Yes. (I renounce them.)

Question: Do you renounce the world and its lusts that are passing away?

Answer: Yes. (I renounce them.)

Question: Do you renounce your own sinful desires and the flesh that wars against the Spirit?

Answer: Yes. (I renounce them.)

Question: Do you confess the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead?

Answer: Yes. (I believe.)

Question: Do you love the Lord Jesus and promise to follow Him all the days of your life?

Answer: Yes. (I do)

Question: What is your name?

Answer: [Give Full Name]

Minister: On the basis of God's promises and this confession of faith, I baptize thee _____ in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...And may the blessings of our Triune God descend upon you and remain in your heart always. Amen.

Let us welcome the newly baptized by praising our God! (Congregation sings Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.