

Invitation

On behalf of the congregation of Union United Church, I present Chloe Elizabeth Douglas for initiation into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism:

[Parents and children stand as their names are read]

Welcome

They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them:

Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Realm of God like a child shall not enter it.

And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Address

The Sacrament of Baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, one in Christ, and members of Christ's body.

Questions of the Parents/Guardians

Do you desire to have Chloe baptized into the faith and the family of Jesus Christ?

I/we do.

Will you encourage her to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

I/we will, with the help of God.

Will you teach her that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?

I/we will, with the help of God.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Saviour, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

I/we do, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Chloe in the Christian faith, to help her to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism?

I/we do, with the help of God.

Congregational Assent

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to Chloe about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in God.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.**

Prayer over the Water of Baptism

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We thank you, God,

for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the waters of the Red Sea from slavery to freedom, and crossed the waters of the Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to the woman at the well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

[Water is poured]

Bless, by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water, that it may be the sign and promise of new life, not only for those who will be baptized, but indeed, for all who have passed through the waters of baptism. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, who is, and who ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Act of Baptism

By what name will your child be called?

Chloe Elizabeth Douglas

Chloe, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Chloe, with the sign of the cross, you are marked as Christ's forever.

[Parents, grandparents, chair of Unified Board, and minister shall rest their hands on the child's head]

May the Holy Spirit be upon you Chloe child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the Church.

Declaration

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, I declare that Chloe Elizabeth Douglas has now been received into the Holy Christian Church. May God bless you and keep you and give you peace.

Amen.

[A candle is lit from the Christ candle and given to the parent(s)]

Remember the lighting of this candle and remind Chloe of it. This candle signifies that by our baptism we pass from darkness to light; from death to life.

It is with great joy that we also present you with this Bible for Chloe, and her baptismal certificate.

[presentation of baptismal certificate and Bible]

[Introduction to congregation]

Prayer for the Baptized

Let us pray for Chloe, baptized today.

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless Chloe. May she be filled with joy; may she never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless Chloe's parents. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Chloe. Bless these, your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Finally we ask your continued blessings on those children whom we baptized in the past. Kaidan Douglas, Audrey Gillard, and Mac Maunu. All this we pray in the name of our baptized and baptizing saviour, Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

Union United Church

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