

# Ritual of Baptism for Adults

## Invitation

Today we have the honor of participating in the baptism of \_\_\_\_\_  
We invite him/her to join us at this time at the baptismal font.

## \*Hymn (verses 1 and 2)

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
Faithfully now God's Praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Dead in the tomb with Christ Our King'  
One with his rising, freed and forgiven;  
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

## Welcome

We participate today in a ritual that has been transformative in the lives of people for thousands of years. Baptism has many layers of meaning. On one level, baptism is a symbol of dying to our old self and our rising to a new way of life in Christ. On another level, baptism is about becoming apart of the body of Christ. We die to a selfish way of living and become apart of the family of Jesus Christ with many new brothers and sisters called to follow together in the way of Christ who is our head. On yet another level, our baptism is a symbol that we are forgiven, saved by the grace of God not just in the moment of baptism but throughout our lives. Baptism is also a blessing. When Jesus was baptized he came out of the water and the Spirit of God rested upon him and he heard the voice of God saying to him, "You are my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." When we are baptized God says to us, "You are my beloved son (daughter) with whom I am well blessed."

## Questions for the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Parent(s): I do.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Parent(s): I do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Parent(s) and Sponsor(s): I do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Parent(s) and Sponsor(s): I do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you grow in your own faith? Will you be a faithful member of Christ's church? Will you commit yourself to the nurture of the Christian church by being in worship and ministry as a disciple of Christ?

**Parent(s): I do, with the help of God.**

## \*Congregational Assent

No one can walk the way of Christ alone. Each one needs the extend family of the church to fulfill their vows. Will you as a church family through your word and example give your support to this person to grown in his/her faith?

**People: We promise our love and support.**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the trinity.

Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Will you recommit yourselves to follow in the way of Christ as your Savior and Lord?

**People: I commit myself to follow the way of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

### **Blessing of the Water**

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in (the one/all) baptized this day that he/she/they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be world without end. Amen

### **Baptism**

**Pastor:** What name shall you be baptized with\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Prayer**

The Holy Spirit be upon you,

\_\_\_\_\_, Child of God, Disciple of Christ, Member of the church. Amen.

### **Presentation (If not joining St. Matthew UCC)**

# Reception into Membership of St. Matthew UCC

## Invitation

We invite \_\_\_\_\_ to join us as we welcome you into the faith and family of St. Matthew United Church of Christ.

## Address

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and to this place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence and new commitment to St. Matthew's family of faith.

## Question for Participants

Do you promise to participate in the life and the mission of St. Matthew's family of God's people. to share regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**I promise, with the help of God.**

Do you commit to join with us in times of prosperity and in times of challenges and change, in times of harmony and through times of discord, and to be a faithful member of this church living the message of God reconciling and forgiving love?

**I promise, with the help of God.**

## Welcome

One: Let the members of St. Matthew UCC express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: **We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promises you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

## Greeting

In the name of Jesus the Christ, and on behalf of St. Matthew we extend to you our hand of Christian love, welcoming you to our family. (clapping)

## Prayer

Eternal God, we praise you for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending us these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Give us the grace to love one another and to have the mind of Christ. Amen.

## Closing

Go in Christ peace.