

**Baptism of \_\_\_\_\_**  
**May 1, 2016**

**Pastor:** According to Matthew, the last thing Jesus told his disciples went like this: “All authority on heaven and earth has been given unto me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you til the very end of the age.”

The Apostle Peter tells us that this promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away.

Obedying Jesus’ command and confident of his promises, we baptize this boy.

Baptism is like a Sermon in Drama form. When we baptize people we announce God’s promises, and we accept God’s promises. The Bible uses water as a sign for 3 things that God promises. 1.) Water is what we use to wash, and so baptism is a symbol that all our sin has been washed away by the blood of Jesus. This symbol is especially emphasized as we pour water over people’s head. 2.) In baptism, we remember that the penalty for sin is death, but Jesus died to pay our penalty. When we dunk people under water, we are saying that the old person with all their sin and regret is dead, and a new creation, a new person has been raised from the dead. 3.) Lastly, just like water breaks during labor, we use water to remind us that because of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been born again as a Child of God and as a member of God’s family the church.

All of those promises became available to us when Jesus died, and we accept those gifts when we accept that we are sinners and put our faith in Jesus to save us and renovate our lives.

In the baptism of children, we especially remember that God first loves us. That Jesus died for each of us before we were even born, before we had personally sinned or repented or believed.

**ELDER:** On behalf of the Session, I present \_\_\_\_\_, son of \_\_\_\_\_ to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

**PASTOR:**

Do you renounce evil and its ways in power in the world? **We do.**

Do you abandon any claim to salvation on your own merit? **We do.**

Do you know that you are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not through anything you have done or will do, but simply through faith in Christ’s finished work on Calvary’s cross, do you? **We do.**

Do you realize that this alone cannot save \_\_\_\_\_ and that \_\_\_\_\_ will have to accept Christ as his own Savior, do you? **We do.**

Have you covenanted with God to give back this child to Him and trust him with his life, so that if God sees fit in His providence to call this child home to Himself, you will not complain against Him, or if the child grows to adulthood and is called into some form of special Christian service, you will not stand in his way but rather encourage him, have you? **We have.**

Finally, do you understand that this sacrament is not a matter of magic, but in it you covenant with God to raise this child in the fear of the Lord, to pray for him and with him, to keep him in the house of God and with God’s people, to be faithful in your lives for Christ lived before \_\_\_\_\_, and to do your utmost personally to lead him to a saving knowledge of Christ at an early age, do you? **We do.**

Awesome. Thank you.

**ELDER (To the Congregation):** Like circumcision, baptism is the visible sign that marks us as members of God’s Covenant People.

In baptism, we are reminded that we have obligations to one another's family. So do we the congregation of Oakland Presbyterian Church, do we accept \_\_\_\_\_ as one of ours, and therefore promise to guide and nurture \_\_\_\_\_, introducing him to Jesus and forming him into one more and better disciple? **We do.**

**PASTOR:** As these have reaffirmed their faith, let us together declare what we believe, using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

*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.*

**PASTOR POURS OUT THE WATER.**

LET US PRAY:

God, we remember all the times, water shows up in your story. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, creating the good world.

In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the flood.

You led Israel out of slavery, through the Red Sea, into the Promised Land.

In the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it might like then it may be the water of new creation, deliverance, death and rebirth through Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_, what is \_\_\_\_\_'s full name? \_\_\_\_\_

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

You are beloved - a son of the God the Father Almighty, bought with the blood of Jesus, who would rather die than live without you. He has given you the Bible, the Church, and the Holy Spirit so you might believe this and live like it is true.

**To the Congregation:**

It is my pleasure to introduce to you, the newest member of Oakland. He is your charge. Love him well.