

BAPTISM

A visible sign of an invisible grace. Baptism is the sign and seal of incorporation into Christ.
Preaching in Drama form.

1.) WATER IS USED FOR WASHING. – WE’VE BEEN WASHED CLEAN BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

- a. **Titus 3:3-7** - At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the **washing** of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
- b. **Rev 7:14** - These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- c. **Hebrews 10:22** - let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
- d. **Ephesians 5:25-27** - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, **cleansing[b] her by the washing with water through the word, 27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

2.) WATER IS USED FOR BURIAL. – WE’VE DIED WITH CHRIST AND BEEN GIVEN NEW LIFE.

- a. **Romans 6:1-11** - What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don’t you know that **all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we

should no longer be slaves to sin— **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

- b. **Ephesians 2:1-10** - As for you, **you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

3.) WATER BREAKS IN BIRTH.

- a. **John 3:5-8** - Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they **are born of water and the Spirit. 6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You[c] must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”
- b. **1 Peter 1:23** - you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
- c. **1 John 3:1** - See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
- d. **BEING BORN UNITES YOU TO A FAMILY.**
 - i. **Acts 2:41** - Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
 - ii. **Matt 12:48-50** - He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” **49** Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and

my brothers. **50** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

CLARIFICATION:

- 1.) Baptism is about God. Baptism is first and foremost God’s work, done to publicize his faithfulness. Baptism is about God’s covenant and commitment to save us inspite of us, to cleanse us even though we are filthy, resurrect us even though we owe the penalty of death, and to adopt us even though we have become runaways and children of the devil. Baptism is a declaration of God’s love and commitment AND our deep need and helplessness.
- 2.) Only baptize once.
- 3.) Baptism alone does not save. The promises proclaimed in Baptism must be accepted in faith as they are understood.
- 4.) Baptism proclaims that you and I cannot be good enough, nor can we be saved because of our parents’ faith or our bloodline or our ancestry. Only repentance and faith in God’s grace can save us.
- 5.) In baptism, the parents commit to raising this child as Christians, teaching him/her to follow after Jesus, and hopefully leading that child to Salvation at an early age.
- 6.) Baptism is about the Church not the family. As stated above, baptism is a celebration that we are part of God’s family even more fundamentally than the family we share blood with. Think of it this way: Jesus’ blood is thicker than mine.
- 7.) We baptize members kids because of this, and wait until parents become members to baptize their children.

Baptismal Questions:

- 1.) Do you renounce evil and its ways in power in the world? **We do.**
- 2.) Do you abandon any claim to salvation on your own merit? **We do.**
- 3.) 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.**
- 4.) Do you realize that this alone cannot save Jack and that Jack will have to accept Christ as his own Savior, do you? **We do.**
- 5.) 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.**

- 6.) 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 her and with her, to keep him in the house of God and with God's people, to be faithful in your lives for Christ lived before this child, and to do your utmost personally to lead him to a saving knowledge of Christ at an early age, do you? **We do.**
- 7.) **(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 Jack as one of ours, and therefore promise to guide and nurture Jack with actions and words, with love and prayer, introducing him to Jesus and forming him into one more and better disciple? **We do.**