**Affirmation of Baptism: A Public Profession of Faith**

**An Order**

**The Presentation**

*The minister and other leaders take their places before the congregation.*

*A hymn or psalm may be sung as those who are making a public profession of faith gather before the congregation. The group may form around the baptismal font. An elder presents them, saying:*

Christian friends: \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_,

have been baptized and are members of the body of Christ. They have been nurtured within the Christian community and instructed in the belief and practice of the church.

In making public profession of their faith, they desire to affirm their baptism, and to claim the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*The minister or elder, addressing both candidates and congregation, says:*

Remember your baptism and give thanks.

By the waters of baptism

and the power of the Holy Spirit

God claims us

and calls each one by name.

God unites us to Christ in his death and resurrection

and grafts us into the body of Christ

as members of the church.

**Affirmation of Baptism: A Public Profession of Faith**

**Reception of New Members**

**An Outline**

The Presentation

Renunciation and Affirmation

Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Blessing

The Charge

God washes us clean by forgiving our sin;

commissions us to be a royal priesthood with Christ

in his ministry to the world;

empowers us to live in newness of life

as people of the Word;

and invites us to be renewed at the Lord's Table

until we feast with him in glory.

By grace you have been saved through faith;

and this is not your own doing,

it is the gift of God. *Eph. 2:8.*

*The minister continues, calling the candidates by their given names:*

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

you stand before God

and this company of God's people

to affirm the covenant God made with you at your baptism,

to acknowledge your growth in grace

and to assume responsibility as a

disciple of Jesus Christ

in this congregation and the world.

Are you ready to make public your profession of faith?

*Each candidate will answer:*

**I am ready**.

**Renunciation and Affirmation**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God

who has been faithful to us in all generations,

do you turn away from sin,

renounce evil and all powers in the world

which rebel against God

or oppose God's rule of justice and love?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ

accepting him as Lord and Saviour,

trusting in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit,

to mature as a Christian in the church,

to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word,

to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides,

and to engage in his mission to the world?

**I do**.

Let us, with all the people of God, confess the faith of the church.

*The people will stand and join the candidates in saying the Apostles' Creed. The Creed may be recited without use of the questions.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth**.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Blessed are you, most gracious God,

for you have given to us the gift of baptism.

Through water and the Spirit

you have claimed us as your own,

cleansing us from sin and giving us new life.

You called us into your church

to be your servants in the world

in the name of Jesus Christ.

You promised to be present among us,

to direct and defend your people

by the power of your Spirit.

And now we give you thanks,

for your faithfulness to us

and to these, your children

who come to renew with you the covenant of baptism.

By the power of your Spirit

continue in *them* the good work you have begun

that *they* may willingly serve you

in love and joy

with courage and truth

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**OR**

Gracious God;

we praise you for calling us to be your people,

and for gathering us to be the church, the body of Christ.

We thank you for leading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to this time and place

in affirmation of your gifts to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_in baptism.

Together, may we live in your Spirit,

grow in faith, hope and love,

and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit

we give honour and glory, now and forever.  **Amen**.

**The Blessing**

*Each person who has made a public profession of faith for the first time and/or who is returning to the fellowship of the church comes forward in turn (and kneels) for a blessing. The minister places a hand on the head of each and prays, using one of the following:*

Holy God, defend \_\_\_\_\_\_ with your grace,

that they may daily increase in the gifts of the Spirit, serving Jesus Christ both now and forever.

*Response:* **Amen**.

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_, child of God,

may you live and walk in the Spirit,

increasing daily in the gifts of love,

joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

as one who belongs to Christ Jesus, our Lord.

*Response:* **Amen**. *Based on Gal. 5:22-25.*

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

may the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that by the power of the Holy Spirit

you may abound in hope,

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Response:*  **Amen**. *Based on Rom. 15:13.*

**OR**

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**The Charge**

*When all are standing, the minister, elder or other leader, charges them in the following or similar words.*

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*The minister, elder and other leaders, may offer the right hand of fellowship to all who have affirmed their baptism. Or a sign of Peace may be exchanged with them and the congregation, saying:*

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

**And also with you**.

*When all have returned to their places, the service continues.*

**Intercessions**

*Additional prayers of intercession may be offered for those who have affirmed their baptism. These would normally be offered during* THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*.*

*Beginning with a time for silent prayer, elders or members of the congregation* *may offer a sentence prayer.*

Let us pray that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, who affirmed their baptism today, may be kept in the faith and communion of Christ's church.

**OR**

*The leader may bid the congregation to prayer in the following terms:*

Let us pray that those affirming their baptism may go into the world, giving witness to God's love and grace.

*Silence*.

Let us pray that, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, may know the peace of Christ in times of trouble, doubt and sorrow.

*Silence*.

Let us pray that they, with all of us, may remember our need to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

*Silence*.

Let us pray that we may grow together in the knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

*Silence*.

**OR**

*A corporate prayer of intercession may be used, either led by one of the congregation, or read by all the people, as follows:*

God of grace:

you call us to a common ministry in the name of Jesus.

We praise you for working in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to bring them to this moment of affirmation and the acceptance of the rights and responsibilities of life in your church.

Together, may we give witness to your wonderful deeds

and mighty acts.

Together, may we uphold justice and work for peace.

Strengthen us by your Spirit to fulfil the vows which unite

us in common faith and purpose,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.