

# **Entry into the Church**

**from the Methodist Worship Book**

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## Acknowledgements

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following list of acknowledgements is as comprehensive as possible, but the experience of those involved in the preparation of **The Methodist Worship Book** is similar to that of the compilers of the **Book of Common Order** of the Church of Scotland, who state:

Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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# ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

## INTRODUCTION

Baptism marks entry into the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, of which the Methodist Church is part. In Confirmation, those who have been baptized declare their faith in Christ and are strengthened by the Holy Spirit for continuing discipleship.

## Baptism

Christian Baptism is always administered with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. From its earliest days the Church has believed that this sacrament was commanded by Christ as the divinely appointed means of initiation into the Christian community and therefore a person can be baptized only once.

Baptism shows the love of God for all people, displayed supremely in the self-giving of Jesus Christ, and demonstrates all that Christ has won for us through his death and resurrection. Baptism makes plain that, before and without any response on our part, Christ died for us. The Methodist Church, like most branches of the Christian Church, administers the sacrament to both adults and young children.

Water, the central symbol of Baptism, speaks to us – among other things – of being washed clean and of making a new beginning. God’s offer of new life in Christ invites us to respond, challenges us to discipleship and calls us to the life of faith in the Church and in the world. Such discipleship is possible only with the help of God’s Holy Spirit. Since Baptism is also entry into a community of faith it involves the support and encouragement of other members of that community. For this reason, Baptism normally takes place in a service of public worship.

Baptism marks a new relationship with the Church of Christ. It is a rite of initiation, the ritual beginning of a journey of faith.

## **Confirmation and Reception into Membership**

The service of Confirmation and Reception into Membership marks a significant point along the journey of faith which starts with Baptism.

Confirmation reminds us that we are baptized and that God continues to be at work in our lives: we respond by affirming that we belong to Christ and to the whole people of God. At a Service of Confirmation, baptized Christians are also received into membership of the Methodist Church and take their place as such in a local congregation.

Although the Baptism of young children and the Baptism of those who are able to answer for themselves often occur separately, there are occasions when both are to happen, and on such occasions Confirmation and Reception into Membership will normally take place. Five services are provided, which allow for a number of different circumstances, as explained in the **NOTES** which precede the services.

# THE BAPTISM OF THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES, AND OF YOUNG CHILDREN, WITH CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

## NOTES

- 1 This service is used when **both** *those who are* able to answer for *themselves* **and** *young children* are to be baptized.
- 2 Normally those who have been baptized when they are able to answer for themselves should be confirmed and received into membership immediately, and the service provides for this, though provision is also made for the possibility that the Confirmation and Reception may be deferred.
- 3 When this service includes the Confirmation and Reception into membership of *those* baptized who *have* answered for *themselves*, it may also include the Confirmation and Reception of *persons* baptized on a previous occasion.
- 4 The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered during an act of public worship, most appropriately a celebration of **Holy Communion**. When the service includes Confirmation, it always takes place during a celebration of Holy Communion, following the sermon.
- 5 When the service is used for Baptism without Confirmation, it is preferable that it follow the sermon, but it may be used before the Ministry of the Word.
- 6 If candles are to be given to the newly-baptized, they may be lit from the Easter Candle (see page 265) or some other candle lit at the beginning of the service.



- 7 Prayers for those who have been baptized (and confirmed), and, as appropriate, for their families, should be included in the prayers of intercession.
- 8 The minister shall ensure that a certificate of Baptism is given to each newly-baptized person, or, in the case of *young children*, to the *parents*, during or after the service. A certificate of Confirmation may be given to each newly-confirmed person during or after the service.

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1 Hymn

**THE DECLARATION**

- 2 Sisters and brothers,  
Baptism is a gift of God.  
It declares to each of us  
the love and grace of God.  
  
In this sacrament we celebrate  
the life of Christ laid down for us,  
the Holy Spirit poured out on us,  
and the living water offered to us.  
God claims and cleanses us,  
rescues us from sin,  
and raises us to new life.  
He plants us into the Church of Christ  
and sustains and strengthens us  
with the power of the Spirit.  
  
Although we do not deserve these gifts of grace,  
or fully understand them,  
God offers them to all,  
and, through Christ, invites us to respond.

We recall the words of the risen Christ:

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel of Christ’s resurrection. Those who heard the message asked what they should do. Peter told them:

‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls.’

## THE REQUEST FOR BAPTISM

- 3     *The candidates for Baptism who are able to answer for themselves stand.*

*The minister says to them:*

*N and N (N), having heard these things, how do you respond to the offer of God’s grace?*

*Answer:* I thank God, and ask to be baptized.

- 4     *The parents (and godparents) of the children to be baptized stand.*

The minister says to the *parents*:

*A and B (A)*, having heard these things, how do you respond to the offer of God's grace?

Answer:

*We/I* thank God, and ask that *our/my child/children* be baptized.

- 5 If a candidate is to give personal testimony to God's grace, this may be done here.

## THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

- 6 All stand.

Except where a baptistry is to be used, water is poured into the font, in the sight of the people.

The candidates for Baptism and the *parents* (and *godparents*) gather round or near the font or baptistry.

The minister stands at the font or baptistry and says:

Gracious God, we thank you  
for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit,  
for your sustaining, cleansing, and life-giving power.

From the beginning  
your grace has been made known  
through water and the Spirit.

Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation  
and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea.  
In the fullness of time you sent Jesus.

He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

He passed through the deep waters of death  
and lives for evermore.

He offers living water  
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The minister may extend her/his hands over the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
that those baptized in this water  
may die to sin,  
be raised with Christ,  
and be born to new life in the family of your Church.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7 Hymn

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

8 The people remain standing.

The minister says to the *candidates* for Baptism able to answer for *themselves*, to the *parents* (and *godparents*) and to any *candidates* for Confirmation who are already baptized:

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,  
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,  
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

9 The minister says to everyone present:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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.**

## **THE BAPTISM**

- 10 The minister says to each candidate able to answer for herself/ himself:

What is your name?

Each candidate responds with her/his Christian name(s).

- 11 The minister says to the *parents* of each child:

What name have you given this child?

The *parents* respond with the Christian name(s) of the child.

- 12 The minister may say to those to be baptized:

*N and N,*  
for you Jesus Christ came into the world;  
for you he lived and showed God's love;  
for you he suffered death on the Cross;  
for you he triumphed over death,  
rising to newness of life;  
for you he prays at God's right hand:  
all this for you,  
before you could know anything of it.

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

In your Baptism,  
the word of Scripture is fulfilled:  
'We love, because God first loved us.'

- 13 The minister pours water generously and visibly three times on the bowed head of each candidate able to answer for herself/himself, or dips her/him in water three times, once at the mention of each Person of the Holy Trinity, saying:

N, I baptize you  
in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each newly-baptized person, saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

- 14 The minister, taking each child into her/his arms, pours water generously and visibly on the child's head, or dips the child in water three times, once at the mention of each Person of the Holy Trinity, saying:

N, I baptize you  
in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each newly-baptized child, saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

- 15 The people sit.

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly-baptized or, in the case of *infants*, to *their parents or godparents*.

The minister, or a representative of the local church, says to the newly-baptized:

Receive this light,  
for you belong to Christ,  
the Light of the world.

Christ is your Light and your Way.

**May you grow and live in the faith of Christ. Amen.**

- 16 The newly-baptized *stand* facing the people or, in the case of *infants*, are shown to the people.

All say or sing:

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look on you with kindness  
and give you peace. Amen.**

## **THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

- 17 *Those who have answered for themselves sit.*

The *parents* (and *godparents*) of the newly-baptized *children stand*.

The minister says to the *parents*:

*A and B (A)*, I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace to your *children* by making these promises.

Will you love *these your children*, committing *yourselves* to care for *them* in body, mind and spirit?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

Will you, therefore,  
ensure that *they are* nurtured  
in the faith and life of the Christian community?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

Will you set before *them* a Christian example,  
that through your prayers, words and deeds,  
*they* may learn the way of Christ?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

**18** If there are *godparents*, the minister says to them:

*C and D (C),*  
will you help *these parents*  
to nurture *their children* in the Christian faith?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

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If, in exceptional circumstances and for good reason, the Confirmation of *those newly-baptized who have answered for themselves* is to be delayed, the service continues from no. 31.

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**19** **All stand. The minister says to the people:**  
Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these children*  
*have* been baptized.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service  
that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love  
of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**



## THE REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION

- 20 The minister says to the newly-baptized *candidates* for Confirmation, and to any *candidates* for Confirmation who have been baptized on a previous occasion:

*N* and *N* (*N*),  
God has constantly been at work in your life  
and, at your Baptism into Christ,  
offered you the gifts of his grace.  
In this moment  
God offers to strengthen you by his Spirit  
and invites you to respond.

**Answer:** I thank God, and ask to be confirmed.

## THE CONFIRMATION

- 21 The people remain standing. *Those who are to be confirmed kneel.*

The minister, extending her/his hands towards the *candidates*, says:

By your power and grace, Lord,  
strengthen *these* your *servants*,  
that *they* may live as *faithful disciples* of Jesus Christ.  
Increase in *them* your gifts of grace,  
and fill *them* with your Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of discernment and inner strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge, holiness, and awe.

- 22 The minister lays her/his hand upon the head of each candidate, saying:

Lord, confirm your servant *N* by your Holy Spirit  
that *she/he* may continue yours for ever. **Amen.**

## THE RECEPTION AND WELCOME

23 *Those newly-confirmed stand.* The minister says to *them*:

*N and N (N),*  
we receive and welcome you  
as *members* of the Methodist Church,  
and of the church in this place.

24 The minister and a representative of the local church extend the hand of fellowship to each newly-confirmed person.

## THE PROMISES OF THOSE NEWLY-CONFIRMED

25 The minister says to *those newly-confirmed*:

*N and N (N),*  
I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace  
by making these promises.

Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

26 The minister says to the people:

Members of the Body of Christ, we rejoice that *these, our sisters and brothers, have been baptized and confirmed.*

*Baptism of those able to answer and of Young Children*

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

27 The people sit.

A Bible or some other book may be given.

Certificates of Baptism and Confirmation, as appropriate, may be given.

28 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew in us all  
the grace of our Baptism;  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who are baptized into Christ. Amen.**

29 Hymn

30 The service continues from the prayers of intercession in any appropriate order for Holy Communion. That for **The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the Life of the Church** (page 174) is especially suitable.

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When no one is to be confirmed the service continues as follows after no. 18:

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## THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

- 31 *Those newly-baptized who have answered for themselves stand. The minister says to them:*

*N and N (N),*

I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace by making these promises.

Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

- 32 *The people stand. The minister says to them:*

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these, our sisters and brothers, have been baptized.*

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

- 33 *A Bible or some other book may be given.*

*A certificate of Baptism may be given.*

34 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew in us all  
the grace of our Baptism;  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who are baptized into Christ. Amen.**

35 The Lord's Prayer, if it is not said at some other point in the service

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer  
that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily  
bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.  
Save us from the time of  
trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his  
disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in  
heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our  
daily bread.  
And forgive us our  
trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into  
temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

36 Hymn

37 The service continues.

# THE BAPTISM OF THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES, WITH CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

## NOTES

- 1 This service is used when **only** *those* who *are* able to answer for *themselves* *are* to be baptized.
- 2 Normally those who have been baptized when they are able to answer for themselves should be confirmed and received into membership immediately, and the service provides for this, though provision is also made for the possibility that the Confirmation and Reception may be deferred.
- 3 When this service includes the Confirmation and Reception into Membership of *those* baptized who *have* answered for *themselves*, it may also include the Confirmation and Reception of *persons* baptized on a previous occasion.
- 4 The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered during an act of public worship, most appropriately a celebration of **Holy Communion**. When the service includes Confirmation, it always takes place during a celebration of Holy Communion, following the sermon.
- 5 When the service is used for Baptism without Confirmation, it is preferable that it follow the sermon, but it may be used before the Ministry of the Word.
- 6 If *candles* *are* to be given to the newly-baptized, *they* may be lit from the Easter Candle (see page 265) or some other candle lit at the beginning of the service.
- 7 Prayers for *those* who *have* been baptized (and confirmed), and, as appropriate, for *their families*, should be included in the prayers of intercession.

- 8 The minister shall ensure that a certificate of Baptism is given to each newly-baptized person during or after the service. A certificate of Confirmation may be given to each newly-confirmed person during or after the service.
- 

1 Hymn

## THE DECLARATION

- 2 Sisters and brothers,  
Baptism is a gift of God.  
It declares to each of us  
the love and grace of God.

In this sacrament we celebrate  
the life of Christ laid down for us,  
the Holy Spirit poured out on us,  
and the living water offered to us.

God claims and cleanses us,  
rescues us from sin,  
and raises us to new life.  
He plants us into the Church of Christ  
and sustains and strengthens us  
with the power of the Spirit.

Although we do not deserve these gifts of grace,  
or fully understand them,  
God offers them to all,  
and, through Christ, invites us to respond.

We recall the words of the risen Christ:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything that I have  
commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection. Those who heard the message asked what they should do. Peter told them:

'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
so that your sins may be forgiven;  
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
For the promise is for you,  
for your children,  
and for all who are far away,  
everyone whom the Lord our God calls.'

### THE REQUEST FOR BAPTISM

- 3     *The candidates for Baptism stand.*

*The minister says to them:*

*N and N (N), having heard these things, how do you respond to the offer of God's grace?*

*Answer:* I thank God, and ask to be baptized.

- 4     *If a candidate is to give personal testimony to God's grace, this may be done here.*

### THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

- 5     All stand.

*Except where a baptistry is to be used, water is poured into the font, in the sight of the people.*

*The candidates stand round or near the font or baptistry. The minister stands at the font or baptistry and says:*

Gracious God, we thank you  
for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit,  
for your sustaining, cleansing, and life-giving power.



From the beginning  
your grace has been made known  
through water and the Spirit.

Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation  
and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea.  
In the fullness of time you sent Jesus.  
He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
He passed through the deep waters of death  
and lives for evermore.  
He offers living water  
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The minister may extend her/his hands over the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
that *those/the one* baptized in this water  
may die to sin,  
be raised with Christ,  
and be born to new life in the family of your Church.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 6 Hymn

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### 7 The people remain standing.

The minister says to the *candidates*:

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,  
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,  
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

8 The minister says to everyone present:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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.**

## THE BAPTISM

9 The minister says to each candidate:

What is your name?

Each candidate responds with her/his Christian name(s).

10 The minister may say to the *candidates*:

*N and N (N),*  
for you Jesus Christ came into the world;  
for you he lived and showed God's love;

for you he suffered death on the Cross;  
for you he triumphed over death,  
rising to newness of life;  
for you he prays at God's right hand:  
    all this for you,  
    before you could know anything of it.  
In your Baptism,  
the word of Scripture is fulfilled:  
'We love, because God first loved us.'

- 11 The minister pours water generously and visibly three times on the bowed head of each candidate, or dips her/him in water three times, once at the mention of each Person of the Holy Trinity, saying:

N, I baptize you  
in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each newly-baptized person, saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

- 12 The people sit.

A lighted candle may be given to each newly-baptized person.

The minister, or a representative of the local church, says to *them*:

Receive this light,  
for you belong to Christ,  
the Light of the world.

Christ is your Light and your Way.

**May you grow and live in the faith of Christ. Amen.**

- 13 *Those newly-baptized stand facing the people.*

All say or sing:

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look on you with kindness  
and give you peace. Amen.**

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If, in exceptional circumstances and for good reason, the Confirmation of *those newly-baptized* is to be delayed, the service continues from no. 25.

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## THE REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION

- 14 *Any candidates for Confirmation who have been baptized on a previous occasion stand.*

The minister says to *all the candidates* for Confirmation:

*N and N (N),*  
God has constantly been at work in your life  
and, at your Baptism into Christ,  
offered you the gifts of his grace.  
In this moment  
God offers to strengthen you by his Spirit  
and invites you to respond.

**Answer:** I thank God, and ask to be confirmed.

## THE CONFIRMATION

- 15 The people stand. *Those who are to be confirmed kneel.*

The minister, extending her/his hands towards the *candidates*, says:

By your power and grace, Lord,  
strengthen *these* your *servants*,  
that *they* may live as *faithful disciples* of Jesus Christ.  
Increase in *them* your gifts of grace,  
and fill *them* with your Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of discernment and inner strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge, holiness, and awe.

- 16 The minister lays her/his hand upon the head of each candidate, saying:

Lord, confirm your servant *N* by your Holy Spirit  
that *she/he* may continue yours for ever. **Amen.**

## THE RECEPTION AND WELCOME

- 17 *Those newly-confirmed stand.* The minister says to *them*:

*N and N (N)*,  
we receive and welcome you  
as *members* of the Methodist Church,  
and of the church in this place.

- 18 The minister and a representative of the local church extend the hand of fellowship to each newly-confirmed person.

## THE PROMISES OF THOSE NEWLY-CONFIRMED

- 19 The minister says to *those newly-confirmed*:

*N and N (N)*,  
I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace  
by making these promises.

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

### 20 The minister says to the people:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these*, our *sisters and brothers*, have been baptized and confirmed.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

### 21 The people sit.

**A Bible or some other book may be given.**

**Certificates of Baptism and Confirmation, as appropriate, may be given.**

### 22 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew in us all  
the grace of our Baptism;  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who are baptized into Christ. Amen.**

- 23 Hymn
- 24 The service continues from the prayers of intercession in any appropriate order for Holy Communion. That for The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the Life of the Church (page 174) is especially suitable.
- When no one is to be confirmed the service continues as follows after no. 13:

## THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

- 25 The minister says to *those* newly-baptized:

*N and N (N),*

I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace by making these promises.

Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

26 The people stand. The minister says to them:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these*, our *sisters and brothers*, have been baptized.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

27 The people sit.

A Bible or some other book may be given.

A certificate of Baptism may be given.

28 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew in us all  
the grace of our Baptism;  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who are baptized into Christ. Amen.**



29 The Lord's Prayer, if it is not said at some other point in the service

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily  
bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.  
Save us from the time of  
trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in  
heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our  
daily bread.  
And forgive us our  
trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into  
temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

30 Hymn

31 The service continues.

# THE BAPTISM OF YOUNG CHILDREN

## NOTES

- 1 This service is used when **only** *young children* are to be baptized.
- 2 The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered during an act of public worship. It is preferable that it follow the sermon, but it may be used before the Ministry of the Word.
- 3 If *candles* are to be given to the newly-baptized, *they* may be lit from the Easter Candle (see page 265) or some other candle lit at the beginning of the service.
- 4 Prayers for *those* who *have* been baptized, and for *their families*, should be included in the prayers of intercession.
- 5 The minister shall ensure that a certificate of Baptism is given to the *parents* of each newly-baptized child during or after the service.

---

### 1 Hymn

## THE DECLARATION

- 2 Sisters and brothers,  
Baptism is a gift of God.  
It declares to each of us  
the love and grace of God.  
  
In this sacrament we celebrate  
the life of Christ laid down for us,  
the Holy Spirit poured out on us,  
and the living water offered to us.  
God claims and cleanses us,  
rescues us from sin,  
and raises us to new life.

He plants us into the Church of Christ  
and sustains and strengthens us  
with the power of the Spirit.

Although we do not deserve these gifts of grace,  
or fully understand them,  
God offers them to all,  
and, through Christ, invites us to respond.

We recall the words of the risen Christ:

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to  
me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything that I have  
commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the  
age.’

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel of  
Christ’s resurrection. Those who heard the message asked  
what they should do. Peter told them:

‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
so that your sins may be forgiven;  
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
For the promise is for you,  
for your children,  
and for all who are far away,  
everyone whom the Lord our God calls.’

## **THE REQUEST FOR BAPTISM**

- 3 *The parents (and godparents) of the children to be baptized stand.*

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

The minister says to the *parents*:

*A and B (A)*, having heard these things, how do you respond to the offer of God's grace?

Answer:

We/I thank God, and ask that *our/my child/children* be baptized.

## THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

4 All stand.

Except where a baptistry is to be used, water is poured into the font, in the sight of the people.

The *parents (and godparents)* gather round or near the font or baptistry.

The minister stands at the font or baptistry and says:

Gracious God, we thank you  
for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit,  
for your sustaining, cleansing, and life-giving power.

From the beginning  
your grace has been made known  
through water and the Spirit.

Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation  
and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea.  
In the fullness of time you sent Jesus.  
He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
He passed through the deep waters of death  
and lives for evermore.  
He offers living water  
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The minister may extend her/his hands over the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
that *those/the one* baptized in this water  
may die to sin,  
be raised with Christ,  
and be born to new life in the family of your Church.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5 Hymn

**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

6 The people remain standing.

The minister says to the *parents* (and *godparents*):

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,  
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,  
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

7 The minister says to everyone present:

EITHER

**A** Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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.**

OR

**B**

We say together:

**We believe in God the Father,  
who made the world.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son,  
who redeemed humankind.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God.**

## THE BAPTISM

8 The minister says to the *parents* of each child:

What name have you given this child?

*The parents respond with the Christian name(s) of the child.*

9 The minister may say to *those to be baptized*:

*N and N (N),*

for you Jesus Christ came into the world;

for you he lived and showed God's love;

for you he suffered death on the Cross;

for you he triumphed over death,

rising to newness of life;

for you he prays at God's right hand:  
all this for you,  
before you could know anything of it.  
In your Baptism,  
the word of Scripture is fulfilled:  
'We love, because God first loved us.'

- 10 The minister, taking each child into her/his arms, pours water generously and visibly on the child's head, or dips the child in water three times, once at the mention of each Person of the Holy Trinity, saying:

N, I baptize you  
in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each child, saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

- 11 The people sit.

A lighted candle may be given to the *parents* or *godparents* of each child.

The minister, or a representative of the local church, says to the *children*:

*N and N (N)*,  
receive this light,  
for you belong to Christ,  
the Light of the world.

Christ is your Light and your Way.

**May you grow and live in the faith of Christ. Amen.**

- 12 The newly-baptized *children are shown to the people.*

All say or sing:

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look on you with kindness  
and give you peace. Amen.**

## THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

- 13 *The parents (and godparents) stand.*

The minister says to the *parents*:

*A and B (A)*, I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace to your *children* by making these promises.

Will you love *these* your *children*,  
committing *yourselves* to care for *them*  
in body, mind and spirit?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

Will you, therefore,  
ensure that *they are* nurtured  
in the faith and life of the Christian community?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

Will you set before *them* a Christian example,  
that through your prayers, words and deeds,  
*they* may learn the way of Christ?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.



- 14 If there are *godparents*, the minister says to them:

*C and D (C),*  
will you help *these parents*  
to nurture *their children* in the Christian faith?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

- 15 The people stand. The minister says to them:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these*, our *sisters and brothers*, have been baptized.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

- 16 The people sit.

A Bible or some other book may be given.

A certificate of Baptism may be given.

- 17 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew in us all  
the grace of our Baptism;  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who are baptized into Christ. Amen.**

- 18 The Lord's Prayer, if it is not said at some other point in the service

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily  
bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.  
Save us from the time of  
trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in  
heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our  
daily bread.  
And forgive us our  
trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into  
temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

- 19 Hymn

- 20 The service continues.

# CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

## NOTES

- 1 This service is used when *persons* baptized on a previous occasion *are* to be confirmed and received into membership.
- 2 It takes place during a celebration of ***Holy Communion***, following the sermon.
- 3 This service is not suitable for use when any *candidates* for Confirmation and Reception *are* to be baptized. In those circumstances, ***The Baptism of those who are able to answer for themselves, and of Young Children, with Confirmation and Reception into Membership*** (page 62) or ***The Baptism of those who are able to answer for themselves, with Confirmation and Reception into Membership*** (page 76), as appropriate, should be used.
- 4 Prayers for *those who have* been confirmed, and, as appropriate, for *their families*, should be included in the prayers of intercession.
- 5 A certificate of Confirmation may be given to each newly-confirmed person during or after the service.

---

1 Hymn

## THE DECLARATION

- 2 Sisters and brothers, by grace,  
through the sign and seal of Baptism,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we become God's people, the Church.

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

In Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit that we may remain in Christ for ever as his faithful servants and witnesses.

3 Let us pray.

Living God,  
may all who are baptized into Christ  
be sustained by the Holy Spirit,  
that through lives of faith and love  
your grace may be known  
and your name honoured;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION

4 *The candidates stand.*

*The minister says to them:*

*N and N (N),  
at your Baptism into Christ,  
God offered you the gifts of his grace  
and has constantly been at work in your life.  
In this moment  
God offers to strengthen you by his Spirit  
and invites you to respond.*

*Answer:* I thank God, and ask to be confirmed.

5 *If a candidate is to give personal testimony to God's grace, this may be done here.*

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

6 *The minister says to the candidates:*

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

*Answer:* By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,  
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,  
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

**7 The people stand.**

**The minister says to everyone present:**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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.**

**8 Hymn**

## THE CONFIRMATION

- 9 The people remain standing. *Those who are to be confirmed kneel.*

The minister, extending her/his hands towards the candidates, says:

By your power and grace, Lord,  
strengthen *these* your servants,  
that *they* may live as *faithful disciples* of Jesus Christ.  
Increase in *them* your gifts of grace,  
and fill *them* with your Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of discernment and inner strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge, holiness, and awe.

- 10 The minister lays her/his hand upon the head of each candidate, saying:

Lord, confirm your servant *N* by your Holy Spirit  
that *she/he* may continue yours for ever. **Amen.**

## THE RECEPTION AND WELCOME

- 11 *Those newly-confirmed stand.* The minister says to *them*:

*N and N (N),*  
we receive and welcome you  
as *members* of the Methodist Church,  
and of the church in this place.

- 12 The minister and a representative of the local church extend the hand of fellowship to each newly-confirmed person.

## THE PROMISES OF THOSE NEWLY-CONFIRMED

- 13 The minister says to *those* newly-confirmed:

*N and N (N),*  
I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace  
by making these promises.

Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

### 14 The minister says to the people:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these, our sisters and brothers, have been confirmed.*

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

### 15 The people sit.

A Bible or some other book may be given.

A certificate of Confirmation may be given.

### 16 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew us by your grace,  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who follow Christ. Amen.**

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

17 Hymn

18 The service continues from the prayers of intercession in any appropriate order for Holy Communion. That for **The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the Life of the Church** (page 174) is especially suitable.



# THE BAPTISM OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

## NOTES

- 1 This service is used when *young children are* to be baptized **and** *persons previously baptized are* to be confirmed and received into membership.
- 2 It takes place during a celebration of ***Holy Communion***, following the sermon.
- 3 This service is not suitable for use when any *candidates* for Confirmation and Reception *are* to be baptized. In those circumstances, ***The Baptism of those who are able to answer for themselves, and of Young Children, with Confirmation and Reception into Membership*** (page 62) should be used.
- 4 If *candles are* to be given to the newly-baptized, *they* may be lit from the Easter Candle (see page 265) or some other candle lit at the beginning of the service.
- 5 Prayers for *those who have* been baptized, and for *those who have* been confirmed, and, as appropriate, for *their families*, should be included in the prayers of intercession.
- 6 The minister shall ensure that a certificate of Baptism is given to the *parents* of each newly-baptized child during or after the service. A certificate of Confirmation may be given to each newly-confirmed person during or after the service.

## BAPTISM

### 1 Hymn

## THE DECLARATION

2 Sisters and brothers,  
Baptism is a gift of God.  
It declares to each of us  
the love and grace of God.

In this sacrament we celebrate  
the life of Christ laid down for us,  
the Holy Spirit poured out on us,  
and the living water offered to us.

God claims and cleanses us,  
rescues us from sin,  
and raises us to new life.  
He plants us into the Church of Christ  
and sustains and strengthens us  
with the power of the Spirit.

Although we do not deserve these gifts of grace,  
or fully understand them,  
God offers them to all,  
and, through Christ, invites us to respond.

We recall the words of the risen Christ:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything that I have  
commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection. Those who heard the message asked what they should do. Peter told them:

'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
so that your sins may be forgiven;  
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
For the promise is for you,  
for your children,  
and for all who are far away,  
everyone whom the Lord our God calls.'

## **THE REQUEST FOR BAPTISM**

- 3     *The parents (and godparents) of the children to be baptized stand.*

*The minister says to the parents:*

*A and B (A), having heard these things, how do you respond to the offer of God's grace?*

*Answer:*

*We/I thank God, and ask that our/my child/children be baptized.*

## **THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

- 4     *All stand.*

*Except where a baptistry is to be used, water is poured into the font, in the sight of the people.*

*The parents (and godparents) gather round or near the font or baptistry.*

The minister stands at the font or baptistry and says:

Gracious God, we thank you  
for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit,  
for your sustaining, cleansing, and life-giving power.

From the beginning  
your grace has been made known  
through water and the Spirit.

Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation  
and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea.  
In the fullness of time you sent Jesus.

He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

He passed through the deep waters of death  
and lives for evermore.

He offers living water  
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The minister may extend her/his hands over the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
that *those/the one* baptized in this water may die to sin,  
be raised with Christ,  
and be born to new life in the family of your Church.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

5 Hymn

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

6 The people remain standing.

The minister says to the *parents (and godparents)* and to  
*those who are to be confirmed*:

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,  
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,  
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?

**Answer:** By the grace of God, I do.

**7 The minister says to everyone present:**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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.**

## **THE BAPTISM**

**8 The minister says to the *parents* of each child:**

What name have you given this child?

*The parents respond with the Christian name(s) of the child.*

9 The minister may say to *those* to be baptized:

*N* and *N (N)*,  
for you Jesus Christ came into the world;  
for you he lived and showed God's love;  
for you he suffered death on the Cross;  
for you he triumphed over death,  
rising to newness of life;  
for you he prays at God's right hand:  
    all this for you,  
    before you could know anything of it.  
In your Baptism,  
the word of Scripture is fulfilled:  
'We love, because God first loved us.'

10 The minister, taking each child into her/his arms, pours water generously and visibly on the child's head, or dips the child in water three times, once at the mention of each Person of the Holy Trinity, saying:

*N*, I baptize you  
in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each child, saying:

*N*, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

11 The people sit.

A lighted candle may be given to the *parents* or *godparents* of each child.

The minister, or a representative of the local church, says to the *children*:

*N* and *N (N)*,  
receive this light,  
for you belong to Christ,  
the Light of the world.

Christ is your Light and your Way.

**May you grow and live in the faith of Christ. Amen.**

- 12 The newly-baptized *children are shown to the people. All say or sing:*

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look on you with kindness  
and give you peace. Amen.**

## THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

- 13 *The parents (and godparents) stand.*

*The minister says to the parents:*

*A and B (A), I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace to your children by making these promises.*

*Will you love these your children,  
committing yourselves to care for them  
in body, mind and spirit?*

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

*Will you, therefore,  
ensure that they are nurtured  
in the faith and life of the Christian community?*

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

*Will you set before them a Christian example,  
that through your prayers, words and deeds,  
they may learn the way of Christ?*

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

14 If there are *godparents*, the minister says to them:

*C and D (C),*  
will you help *these parents*  
to nurture *their children* in the Christian faith?

**Answer:** With God's help we will.

15 The people stand. The minister says to them:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these*, our *sisters and brothers*, have been baptized.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

## CONFIRMATION

### THE DECLARATION

16 The people sit.

The minister says:

Sisters and brothers,  
by grace,  
through the sign and seal of Baptism,  
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we become God's people, the Church.  
In Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit  
that we may remain in Christ for ever  
as his faithful servants and witnesses.



- 17 Let us pray.  
Living God,  
may all who are baptized into Christ  
be sustained by the Holy Spirit,  
that through lives of faith and love  
your grace may be known  
and your name honoured;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION

- 18 The *candidates for Confirmation stand.*

The minister says to *them*:

*N and N (N),*  
at your Baptism into Christ,  
God offered you the gifts of his grace  
and has constantly been at work in your life.  
In this moment  
God offers to strengthen you by his Spirit  
and invites you to respond.

**Answer:** I thank God, and ask to be confirmed.

- 19 If a candidate is to give personal testimony to God's grace,  
this may be done here.

## THE CONFIRMATION

- 20 The people stand. *Those who are to be confirmed kneel.*

The minister, extending her/his hands towards the *candidates*,  
says:

By your power and grace, Lord,  
strengthen *these your servants*,  
that *they* may live as *faithful disciples* of Jesus Christ.

## ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

Increase in *them* your gifts of grace,  
and fill *them* with your Holy Spirit:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of discernment and inner strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge, holiness, and awe.

- 21 The minister lays her/his hand upon the head of each candidate, saying:

Lord, confirm your servant *N* by your Holy Spirit that *she/he* may continue yours for ever. **Amen.**

## THE RECEPTION AND WELCOME

- 22 *Those newly-confirmed stand.* The minister says to *them*:

*N and N (N),*  
we receive and welcome you  
as *members* of the Methodist Church,  
and of the church in this place.

- 23 The minister and a representative of the local church extend the hand of fellowship to each newly-confirmed person.

## THE PROMISES OF THOSE NEWLY-CONFIRMED

- 24 The minister says to *those newly-confirmed*:

*N and N (N),*  
I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace  
by making these promises.

Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?

**Answer:** With God's help I will.

## THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

25 The minister says to the people:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these*, our *sisters and brothers*, have been confirmed.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

**With God's help we will.**

26 The people sit.

A Bible or some other book may be given.

A certificate of Confirmation may be given.

27 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**Generous God,  
touch us again  
with the fire of your Spirit  
and renew us by your grace,  
that we may profess the one true faith  
and live in love and unity  
with all who follow Christ. Amen.**

28 Hymn

29 The service continues from the prayers of intercession in any appropriate order for Holy Communion. That for **The Day of Pentecost and Times of Renewal in the Life of the Church** (page 174) is especially suitable.