

BAPTISM STORY for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*Place the white felt underlay in front of you.
Place the baptism bowl and platform on the white underlay.*

Place the small wooden table on your left. Place the sprig of rosemary or pine and the small scallop shell on the table.

Pick up the container of water and pour into the bowl as you say:

This is water. The water that God created and said was good. The water through which God led the Hebrew slaves to freedom. The water that makes the people of God clean and new.

Take the Christ Candle from the focus shelf and place on the white underlay behind the small table on your left and say:

There comes a time when the church celebrates the mystery of your light becoming one with The Light of Christ (*light the Christ Candle*), and how you can share The Light of Christ with others.

This celebration is called baptism.

*Set about 10 people of God in a semi-circle facing the baptismal bowl.
Have adult, parent holding infant, youth and child figures among those who are gathered. (Have the group of figures reflect the make-up of your congregation—two youth together, a single father with children, a single adult, two women together, etc.)
Place the minister figure in front of the bowl.*

Maybe this celebration happens when you are very tiny or one day as you are growing big.

Some people are baptized when they are tiny babies. They are sprinkled with water.

*Have parent figure holding infant to come forward.
Sprinkle the infant with some of the water from the bowl. (Using the sprig of pine or rosemary to dip into the water for sprinkling.)
Cup your hand over the infant and parent in the sign of a blessing.
Return the parent and infant to the semi-circle.*

Some people are baptized by having water poured over them.

*Bring another figure to stand in front of the minister.
Using the small seashell, dip water from the bowl and pour over the figure.
Cup your hand over the head in the sign of a blessing. Return figure to the semi-circle.*

In our church people are baptized by going through the water.

When you are ready to be baptized you tell the church of the very special promise you have made to God.

Have a child figure move forward to stand with the minister figure.

Then the Minister calls you by name, and asks you to enter the water.

*Move the minister figure and then the child up the steps on the left of the platform
Place the minister and then the child into the bowl of water.
With one hand lower the child back into the water and with the other do the sign of*

blessing as you say:

And you are baptized in the name of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

*Remove the child from the water and move down the steps on the right.
Return the child to the circle of people.*

*Leave the minister figure in the water and repeat the baptizing action and words with
three other figures (a youth, another child and an adult).*

This is what happens on the day the church celebrates your light becoming one with the Light of Christ and your promise to God to share The Light of Christ with others.

It is a very important day when everyone celebrates that you are part of the family of families, we call the church.

Wondering Questions:

I wonder what it feels like to become one with The Light of Christ?

I wonder how it feels to make a special promise to God and be baptized?

I wonder what it feels like to go through the water and under the water?

I wonder how people share The Light of Christ with other people?

Change the light of the Christ Candle and put materials away.

Materials:

A basket large enough to hold all materials

A small basket for figures and one for the rosemary sprig and sea shell

The Christ Candle

Matches

White felt square underlay the size of the satin one used in the Story of the Light

A container of water that children can handle

A clear bowl that fits into the platform and is flat enough on the bottom to stand-up two figures

A small square table

A sprig of pine or rosemary

A small scallop type seashell

A minister figure

10 people of God, various sizes to represent children, youth and adults, including the parent figure holding an infant.

A small absorbent cloth to dry figures before putting away

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