

BAPTISM

We're so excited you are taking this next step in your relationship with God by being baptised. Please take some time to read the following information in preparation and if you have any questions please contact one of the pastors or your connect group leader.

Why should I be baptised?

Following Christ:

In order to understand the reason for being water baptised, it is important to carefully consider what the Bible says about it: Jesus himself was baptised. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." Mark 1:9 MSG

An act of obedience:

Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

A public declaration:

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for Christian life.

Then he said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the message of God's good news to one and all. Whoever believes and is baptised is saved; whoever refuses to believe is damned." Mark 16:16 MSG

What is the meaning and significance of baptism?

A move from death to life:

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb and His resurrection from the dead.

"Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive - right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross." Colossians 2:12-14 MSG

A brand-new life:

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the "old life" and we rise to walk in a "new life". Baptism is like a wedding ring, it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"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." Romans 6:4

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not "save" you; only your faith in Christ does that.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

A new family:

Baptism also connects us to the "body of Christ" - his people in the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

"For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body." 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

How are we to be baptised?

As per the example of Jesus - by being immersed in water. The word "baptise" comes from the Greek word "baptize" which means "to immerse or dip under water".

"As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The book of Acts shows us that this was the norm for every believer.

"Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water." Acts 8:38,39

When are we to be baptised?

Believers in the New Testament were baptised the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can be, and is encouraged to be baptised.

"Those who accepted his message were baptised." Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him." Acts 8:35-39

What do I wear?

Bring a change of clothes and ones you don't mind getting wet! You should wear dark colours and nothing that will go see through in water. Remember to bring a towel. You will be instructed after the message, towards the end of the service, to go and get ready there will be time for you to change.

The word "baptize" means "to dip or immerse"

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THIS NEXT STEP WITH YOU