

What do we do with our Baptism?

Baptism is the word of the covenant made visible and seeking admission to the mind through eye-gate, and it is a means of grace, as is the word preached and heard, because it is a means to faith. God designed and uses it to confirm faith in those who have it and to awaken faith in those baptized as infants. In the latter case, of course, the intended effect is conditional upon the meaning of the sacrament being explained to the child. “Faith cometh by hearing”; and a sacrament that is never explained is of necessity inefficacious. Rightly understood, however, baptism has a lifelong efficacy and use, as an assurance and an incentive. “As often as we fall,” wrote Calvin, “we should recall our baptism, and thereby fortify our mind, so that it may be sure and certain of the remission of our sins.” And the thought of the promises and obligations which baptism sealed as his should constantly spur the Christian to faith, obedience, hope and love. We may conclude by quoting further from Calvin’s masterly exposition of the right use and true benefit of this covenant sacrament: “We should receive it as from the hand of its author,” he writes: “we ought to be firmly convinced that it is He Himself who speaks to us through the sign; He who washes and cleanses us, and puts out of mind our failings; He who makes us partakers of His death, destroys the kingdom of Satan and breaks the power of sin; He who, moreover, makes us one with Himself, so that, clothed with Him, we are accounted children of God. We should be as certain, I say, that He brings these benefits to our souls, as we are that we see our bodies washed, immersed, and surrounded by water . . . it is a most certain rule concerning sacraments, that in the material objects we should discern spiritual benefits, just as if they were actually set before our eyes. . . . Not that these gracious gifts are so bound up with and tied to the sacrament as to be conferred upon us by its own efficacy; the fact is simply that by this token the Lord declares to us that it is His will and pleasure to bestow them all upon us. Nor is it with an empty spectacle that He feeds our gaze; but He leads us to the actual object signified, and effectively fulfills in us that which He represents before us.”

~ JI Packer

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Westminster Presbyterian Church
March 1, 2020



The Prelude: *A time of silence to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*
(Elder to Lead Worship – Ed Payne)

Welcome, Announcements and Silent Prayer (10:25)

Call to Worship: **Psalm 96:1-3** (Responsively)

Elder: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Congregation: **Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.**

All: **Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Salutation: **1 Corinthians 1:3** (Elder)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Invocation (Elder)

* **Hymn:** *Behold Our God* (Insert)

Confession of Faith: **Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 167** (Elder)

Q. How are we to build upon our baptism?

A. The needful but much neglected duty of building upon our baptism is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in times of temptation and when we are present at the administration of it to others, by the following: by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, the purposes for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed by it, and our solemn vows made in it; by being humbled for our sinful defilement and for the ways in which we fall short of it and walk contrary to the grace of baptism and our commitments in it; by growing up to an assurance of pardon for our sin and all of the other blessings sealed to us in this sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin and enlivening of grace; by endeavoring to live by faith and to have a way of life of holiness and righteousness, as those who have given up their names to Christ in their baptism; and by walking in brotherly love, since we are baptized by the same Spirit into one body.

* Congregation Stands

Confession of Sin: Matthew 3:2 (Elder)

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardoning Grace: Proverbs 28:13 (Elder)

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

* **Hymn # 131:** *Children of the Heavenly Father* (Psalm 103:13-18)

Sacrament of Baptism: Nathan Alan Karius

Offertory Scripture/Prayer: 2 Corinthians 9:7 (Elder)

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Tithes and Offerings/Offertory Music

Doxology: Hymn # 733

Special Music: *A Mother's Prayer* soloist - Jessica Karius

Before you close your eyes to sleep, I have a promise still to keep
As I hold you in my arms. I pray your little frame grows strong
And that faith takes hold while you are young; This is my prayer for you.

Hold my hand; I'll teach you the Way to go.
Through the joys, through the tears, The journey of these years,
May you trust Him 'til the end. May you trust Him in the end.

This world is not as it should be, But the Savior opens eyes to see
All that's beautiful and true. Oh may His light fill all you are
And the jewel of wisdom crown your heart; This is my prayer for you.

Hold my hand; I'll teach you the Way to go.
Through the joys, through the tears, The journey of these years,
He is with us 'til the end. He is faithful 'til the end.

You'll travel where my arms won't reach
As the road will rise to lead your feet, On a journey of your own.
May my mistakes not hinder you
But His grace remain and guide you through; This is my prayer for you.

Take His hand and go where He calls you to.
And whatever comes, seek Him, With all your heart;
This will be my prayer for you. Mmmm Father, hear my ceaseless prayer;
Oh keep them in your care.

~ continued

Dún do shúil (Close Your Eyes)

Dún do shúil, a rún mo chroí (Close your eyes, oh love of my heart)

A chuid den tsaol, 's a ghrá liom (My worldly joy, my treasure)

Dún do shúil, a rún mo chroí (Close your eyes, oh love of my heart)

Agus gheobhair feirín amárach... (And you will get a gift tomorrow)

~ Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, & Fionan De Barra
CCLI # 431678

Children ages 4 - 2nd grade may go to Children's Church at this time

Prayer for the Congregation (Pastor)

Scripture Reading: Old Testament – **Genesis 17:7-8**

New Testament – **Acts 2:37-41**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: ***The Promise and Benefit of Baptism*** by Pastor Mark Scholten

Prayer

Hymn # 605: *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

* **Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Reminder – after each service there will be Elders available at the front of the sanctuary to meet with you individually to pray for you or any concerns you or your family may have.

