

# New Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

*This service reframes the structure and vows of the current Baptismal Covenant (UMH 50 and 2004 **Book of Discipline**, para. 217) in fresh imagery and a more interactive style. Text in regular print may be offered by the pastor. Text in bold print may be said by all. Please note that **this liturgy is for use for reaffirming the baptismal covenant, but not for receiving new members**. If you are interested in baptism and/or membership, please see Pastor Trista after the service today.*

*\* If you are joining us from home, please have a cup or bowl of water near you for this responsive reading and reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. \**

## **Introduction (read by Pastor)**

*All standing in body and/or spirit.*

Siblings in Christ:

through the sacrament of baptism

God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,

water poured over and immersing us,

water that flows freely for all who will receive it,

water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,

water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,

water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,

to renew our commitments

in each other's presence

to Christ who has raised us,

the Spirit who has birthed us,

and the Creator who is making all things new.

## **Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith (read responsively)**

And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
Reject the evil powers of this world,  
And repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us  
To resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
In whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,  
put our whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as our Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, races, genders and sexualities.**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church  
as we put our trust  
in God, the Creator Almighty.  
in Jesus Christ, God's only Son.  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
Eternal and Holy, now and forever.**

## **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us  
by baptism into Jesus Christ  
will never die.  
Your justice never fails.  
Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows.  
Your Spirit blows where you will.  
We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try.  
We try to block the flow,  
we redirect the winds of the Spirit,  
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream  
that we do not hear its sound,  
and we forget its power.  
We parch ourselves.

**We are dry and thirsty, O God.  
Come, refresh us!**

*\* signs of the cross are made – all are invited to stretch out their hands \**

*The pastor offers gestures of calling upon the Holy Spirit to come upon the people and the water. The people are invited to offer the same gestures as they respond.*

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!  
**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters.  
**Come upon these waters.**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.  
**Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**  
Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.  
**Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**

Most Holy God, Creator, Sustainer, Eternal Presence!  
**Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord, Teacher, Healer, Compassionate Presence!  
**Glory to you!**

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness, Giver of Truth!  
**Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!  
**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

*All who are baptized and have renewed their vows are invited to come to the font to receive this water as a sign of refreshing.*

*And all who have not yet made a baptismal covenant are welcome to receive a prayer of blessing by Pastor Trista. Please place your hand on your heart as you come forward if you have not yet been baptized.*

*Those of you joining us from home are welcome to drink a cup of water, or to make a sign of the cross on your forehead as you remember your baptism.*

*Please send us a note on Facebook or via email if you would like a special prayer offered on your behalf.*