

Baptism service

and encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here. **There are, however, some parts of the text that must be used and these are indicated by the orange boxes.**

Where possible, the sacrament of baptism should follow the reading of Scripture and the proclamation of the Word. This service may be used for either baptism

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who lived our human life,
died for sinners on the cross;
who was raised from the dead,
and proclaimed by the apostles, Son of God;

All **who lives eternally,
as saviour and sovereign,
coming in judgement and mercy,
to bring us to eternal life.**

We worship God, ever present in the Holy Spirit;
who brings this Gospel to fruition,
assures us of forgiveness,

All **strengthens us to do God's will,
and makes us sisters and brothers of Jesus,
sons and daughters of God.**

We believe in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
united in heaven and on earth:
on earth, the Body of Christ,

All **empowered by the Spirit to glorify God
and to serve humanity;
in heaven, eternally one
with the power, the wisdom and the love of God in Trinity.**

We believe that, in the fullness of time,
God will renew and gather in one
all things in heaven and on earth through Christ,
and be perfectly honoured and adored.

All **We rejoice in God who has given us being,
who shares our humanity to bring us to glory,
our source of prayer and power of praise;
to whom be glory, praise and adoration, now and evermore.**

Amen.

The A f r mations

**Two forms of a f r mation for the baptismal promises are included here
and two others may be found in the Basis of Union Schedule A. These are
the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United
Reformed Church.**

By the candidate for believer's baptism either:

Do you believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth,

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I do.

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By God's grace, I do.

Ö [Á^ [~Á& [] ~^••ÁR^•~ •ÁÔ@!ā•cÁæ•Á^ [~!ÁÙæçā [~!Áæ } áÁŠ [!āÑÁ

I do.

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privileges and responsibilities of membership.)

or

A form including the following elements:

- a Trinitarian confession of faith
- repentance of sin

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An example:

Do you believe that God is the Creator of all things,

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æ } áÁc@æcÁc@^ÁP [|^ÁÙ] ā!ācÁ { [ç^•Áā } Á^ [~!Á@^æ!cÑ

I do.

Are you ready to reject all that is wrong in your life and in the world,

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I am.

Ö [Á^ [~Áæ&&^] cÁR^•~ •Áæ•Á^ [~!ÁÙæçā [~!Áæ } áÁ *āç^!Á^ [~!Á|ā~Ác [Á@ā { ÑÁ

I do.

Statement or Testimony

A short statement or testimony, telling the story of their coming to faith, may be
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To the parent(s) or those bringing the child to be baptised

... A ... and ... B ... , you have come for the baptism of ... N ... in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us hear that you confess your faith in Christ.

Do you believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth,

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I/We do.

or

Come, living God, eternal love,
who gives form to Creation,
and known in the Holy Spirit,
draw us this day
into the love you share
with Son and Spirit,
that ... N ... may be made holy
and receive a new life
as one of your own,
in the company of your people,
now and forever,

All **Amen.**

or

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
In your goodness, you give us water
to sustain our life and renew the earth.
May it be for ... N ... the water of new birth.

All **Blessed be God forever.**

Gracious God, we thank you for your love in all creation,
especially for the gift of water,
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
In the beginning you moved over the waters
and to a formless void brought light and life.
You once parted the waters of a sea
to lead your people out of slavery
to freedom in a land of promise.

and your Spirit was upon him.

that we might have eternal life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that ... N ... ,
being born anew of water and the Spirit,
may remain for ever in the number of your faithful children,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

The Baptism

In the case of believer's baptism, an Elder and/or sponsors may stand with the candidate; in the case of infant baptism, with the baptismal party. The candidate is immersed in water or has water poured over their head.

... N ... , I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the God who loves, the beloved Christ and the very Spirit of love.

The minister may make the sign of the Cross on the forehead of the newly-baptised person. Others (such as Elders, sponsors, family members) may also do so.

... N ... , I sign you with the Cr18 Td[f beloveou wie.

The Promises

Two forms of a formation for the baptismal promises are included here and two others may be found in the Basis of Union Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

When the newly baptised is able to answer for themselves, reception into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership follows, in the form

We are now to receive ... N ... into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership.

From the beginning, believers have continued in the worship and fellowship of the Church.

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I do, with God's help.

With the whole Church, will you proclaim by word and action the good news

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I will, with God's help

Other promises may be added or inserted:

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I do with God's help.

or

Another form of words may be used that includes a promise to share in the worship, fellowship and mission of the church.

An example:

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I will

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I will

Y ä||Á^ [~Áb [ã} Áã} Ác^|ã} *Ác@^Á* [[áÁ} ^ , •Áæ} áÁ•@æ!^Áã} Á•^!çã&^Ác [Ác@^Á& [{ { ~ } äc^ÑÁ

I will.

Will you pursue justice and peace, and care for God's creation,

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I will

Promise by the congregation

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church, do you welcome ... N ... and promise to share with them what you yourselves have received, the gift of

All **We do with God's help.**

When the newly baptised is an infant, those bringing the child for baptism make these promises

From early times the Church has received the children of believers by baptism so that with help and support they may grow up in Christ, and by the grace of God serve Christ all their days.

This child belongs to God in Christ. Tell ... N ... of their baptism that they may know they are baptised and may come to make their own response of faith and love.

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accordance with the decision of this local church meeting, we welcome you
into membership of this congregation of the United Reformed Church.
May your sharing in our life together bring blessing to you and to us all.

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