



**rites of christian initiation cpwi**

# **Preface to Rites of Christian Initiation Revision Supplement November 2023**

The House of Bishops of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, conscious of the fact that since the 1960's the issue of admission of the baptized to full communicant status has re-surfaced with various Provinces of the Anglican Communion pursuing different policies, embarked on a process of reflection on our sacramental theology and pastoral and liturgical practices as these relate to Christian initiation and admission to Holy Communion over more than a decade.

During this time the process involved deliberations within the House of Bishops, The Doctrinal Commission and the Liturgical Commission of the Province. The House of Bishops decided to join with the rest of the Anglican Communion that received the conclusion of the International Liturgical Consultation as an authoritative guide. It stated in part:

“Baptism is the sacramental sign of full incorporation into the body of Christ. Thus, all who are baptized should be welcomed into the Eucharistic fellowship of the church.” Persons who support this view maintain that since we are made members of the family of God by adoption in baptism, every baptized person should be able to be fed with the church's principle food. It is now beyond dispute that in the Early Church baptism led to Eucharistic participation i.e. there was no insistence on Confirmation as the gateway to Holy Communion. It is highly significant that the Eastern Orthodox Church has never insisted on Confirmation as the gateway to Holy Communion.

Consequently, the House of Bishops having arrived at a decision, presented to the Provincial Synod 2019 a paper entitled *Baptism and Communion in Anglicanism* for the purpose of study across the Province, and recommended to the Synod the acceptance of the change being proposed for its approval and for its implementation after study by clergy and laity across the Province until the next meeting of the Synod. The Synod approved.

At the Provincial Synod 2022 an assessment was made of the progress with the studies, workshops, and congregational sessions conducted in the dioceses and it was determined that, due to the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic and its disruptive effects, the period of study and preparation for the change should be extended. The House of Bishops, with the concurrence of the Provincial Synod, after reviewing the work that had been undertaken in the various dioceses in preparation for this change to Baptism as the gateway to Holy Communion

decided that the date for implementation across the Province was to be the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023.

With this change there has been a review of the understanding of Confirmation under this dispensation. Confirmation will be retained, but will be an adult expression of faith by which the church prays that candidate will be further empowered by the Holy Spirit for Christian witness and ministry which was received in Baptism. It signifies a new stage in the continuous deepening of the adult's relationship with God that began at Baptism. Those who were baptized in infancy now make a public confession of faith and commitment to Christ and the church's mission and ministry. The Spirit continues the work begun in baptism to enlighten, free, transform and sanctify those who in baptism were adopted as children of God.

There are attendant challenges to the implementation of these changes, such as the admission of children to Communion, and the admission to Communion of adults baptized as infants but not Confirmed, but these are being addressed by the diocesan bishops and the literature and other material that have already been produced for use by clergy, congregations, parents and lay leaders within the life of congregations.

As a consequence of these changes to the Rites of Christian Initiation, it has become necessary to produce a Supplement to the Prayer Book of the Church in the Province of the West Indies that incorporates them. We commend its use to the faithful of the Province and pray that having this material in hand will allow for a deep appreciation of the transition that is now underway, and why this is a desired restatement of the tradition to which most have been accustomed.

Many have contributed to leading and facilitating the various opportunities for study and reflection of the various levels of the life of the Province. We give thanks for their contribution and pray that our worship, witness and life as a Province will be enriched and deepened through this movement of transition.

**HOWARD JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
**Archbishop, Primate and Metropolitan**  
**Advent 2023**

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# HOLY BAPTISM

## (Infants)

*One of the following Sentences shall be said by the minister.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

*1 Peter 1:3-5*

In truth I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born from water and the Spirit. *John 3:5*

By Baptism we were buried with Christ and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the new path of life.

*Romans 6:4*

### THE GREETING

MINISTER:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

**And blessed be His Kingdom now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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## THE DECLARATION

MINISTER:

In Holy Baptism, the Church proclaims the Good News of our incorporation into the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom which Jesus Christ, our Incarnate Lord, inaugurated by His life of perfect trust and obedience to the Father.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, He brought into being a people for His own possession, which people we are.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ in Holy Baptism, sharing not only in His death but also in His resurrection, becoming God's children by adoption and grace, thus changing our created nature so deeply that the Holy Scripture says that in Baptism we are born again.

Let us therefore pray that those who have come for Baptism may receive, in this Holy Sacrament, that blessing which by nature they cannot have, that they may be made living members of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, and so be set free from the bondage of sin.

MINISTER: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

MINISTER: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you gave to your children new life through the water of Baptism: Grant that this child (*these children*) raised to new life in Christ, may serve you in faith and love and may grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

*Then shall follow the collect of the Day.*

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*The readings are those of the Sunday or Feast Day if the Baptism takes place at the principal service. At the discretion of the Bishop two or three of the following readings may be used instead.*

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Ezekiel            36:24-28  
Jeremiah         31:31-34  
Exodus            14:10-20

### **PSALMS**

23, 42:1-7, 84  
The Benedictus  
Luke 1: 68-79

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

Romans            6:3-5  
2 Corinthians    5:17-20  
Acts                16:25-34

### **GOSPEL**

Mark 1: 9-11  
Mark 10:13-16  
Matt. 28:16-20  
John 3:1-8

## **THE SERMON**

## **THE PRESENTATION**

*The minister shall invite the parents and godparents of the children who have been brought for Baptism to come forward using the following or other appropriate words.*

### **MINISTER:**

Let all Parents and Godparents who have brought children to be baptized now come forward.



MINISTER:

Why do you present these children (*this child*) for Baptism?

EITHER:

**We present these children (*this child*) for Baptism in order that they (*he/she*) may be incorporated into Christ, our Incarnate Lord.**

OR:

**We present these children (*this child*) for Baptism in order that they (*he/she*) may be made living members of the Church which is the Body of Christ.**

MINISTER:

Parents and Godparents, the children (*child*) whom you have brought for Baptism will, by reason of their (*his/her*) infancy, depend on your help and encouragement to grow in the knowledge, reverence and service of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father.

You must remember, that it is also your duty to see that they (*he/she*) are (*is*) instructed in the good news of God's Salvation in Christ, the Church's Creeds and Catechism and all other things which a Christian ought to know, believe and practice as a member of the family of God.

As they (*he/she*) grow(s) up, they (*he/she*) will also need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they (*he/she*) learn (s) to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by love and trust in God, and in due course to come to receive the laying on of the hands by the Bishop in Confirmation.

QUESTION:

Will you give that help and encouragement by your prayers, by your example, and by your teaching?

**ANSWER: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.**

QUESTION:

Will you do all in your power to see that these children (*this child*) are (*is*) brought to the Bishop to be confirmed?

**ANSWER: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.**

## **THE BAPTISMAL VOWS**

MINISTER:

Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourself and for these children (*this child*) whom you have brought for Baptism.

QUESTION:

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Saviour?

**ANSWER: I turn and accept Him.**

QUESTION:

Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

**ANSWER: I so put my trust.**

QUESTION:

Do you promise to love God and obey Him as your Lord?

**ANSWER: I promise.**

QUESTION:

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness?

**ANSWER: I do.**

QUESTION:

Do you renounce injustice and all the evil powers of the world?

**ANSWER: I do.**

***QUESTION:***

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

**ANSWER: I do.**

Let us pray

*The minister says one of the following prayers.*

Heavenly Father, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and united our life with yours: Surround these children (*this child*) with your love; protect them (*him/her*) from evil; sustain and guide them (*him/her*) by your Holy Spirit, and receive them (*him/her*) into the family of your Church; that they (*he/she*) may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father and giver of all grace, we ask your blessing on those who are about to be baptized and made heirs of your Heavenly Kingdom, that through the prayers, the teaching, the example, and the sharing in the life of those who love and care for them, they may grow up in the faith of Christ crucified and in the fellowship of His Church, to serve you faithfully all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING OF THE WATER**

**V** The Lord be with you.

**R** **And also with you.**

**V** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Heavenly Father for the gift of water; over it your Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation; through it you led the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt; in it your Son Jesus received the Baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit; fulfilling His Ministry by the offering of Himself on the Cross, blood and water flowed from His side.

We thank you, Heavenly Father because you have appointed the water of Baptism for the regeneration of all people, through Jesus Christ your Son. In joyful obedience to Him, we make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now, therefore, sanctify this water by the same Holy Spirit, and grant that all who are baptized in it may be united with Christ, forgiven **in** Him, set free from the bondage of sin and raised with Christ to eternal life.

By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The Minister says to the Parents and Godparents:*

**MINISTER:**

You have brought these children to Baptism. Will you now declare before God and His Church the Christian Faith into which these children are to be baptized and in which you will help them live and grow?

**ANSWER: I will.**

*The Minister says to the congregation:*

**MINISTER:**

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our Baptismal commitment.

**QUESTION:**

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER?**

**ANSWER: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

QUESTION:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD?

ANSWER:

**I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

QUESTION:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

ANSWER:

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.**

MINISTER:

This is the faith of the Church.

**ALL:**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

## THE BAPTISM

MINISTER: Name this child.

PARENT OR GODPARENT: N\_

*The Minister then baptizes the candidates, immersing each child in the water or pours water on (his/her) head, addressing (him/her) by name.*

MINISTER:

N\_ I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

*The Minister then makes the sign of the cross, and may do so on the forehead with the Holy Chrism saying;*

MINISTER:

God has united you to Himself and received you into His family the Church. I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Fight valiantly against all evil and continue Christ's faithful servant to the end of your life.

*The Minister or another person may give a lighted candle to the parents or godparents of each child, saying:*

MINISTER:

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. Receive this light and walk as a child of light.

**ALL:**

**Let your light so shine that all may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

## WELCOME

MINISTER:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us welcome the newly baptized!

**ALL:**

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father and inheritors together of His kingdom.**

*A form of intercession and the Act of Penitence may follow. The Eucharist continues with The Peace.*

*In place of the usual Post-Communion prayer the bishop or priest says the following:*

Most merciful Father, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, for adopting us as your own children, for incorporating us into your Holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of your saints in light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*When there is no Eucharist the service proceeds as follows:*

MINISTER:

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so in faith and trust we say:

**ALL:**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name;  
your kingdom come;  
your will be done  
on earth as is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

MINISTER:

Lord God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we thank you that by your Holy Spirit these children have (*this child has*) been born again into new life, adopted for your own, and received into the fellowship of your Church: Grant that they (*he/she*) may grow in the faith into which they have (*he/she has*) been baptized, that they may profess it for themselves (*him/herself*), as they (*he/she*) grow in Christ, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in them (*him/her*). **Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father whose beloved Son Jesus Christ shared with the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph the life of an earthly home at Nazareth, we pray for your blessing on the homes (*home*) of these children (*this child*): Give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of them (*him/her*) that by their word and example they (*he/she*) may learn to know and love you, and so come to your eternal home in heaven, through the same, your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*Or*

God our Father, whose Son our Lord grew up in a home at Nazareth, we pray for the homes (*home*) of these children (*this child*), that they (*it*) may be hallowed by prayer and be the abode of your love, joy and peace. Give to their (*his/her*) parents care and understanding in the training of their children (*child*), and may they by their teaching and example lead them (*him/her*) in the way

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of Christ, that they (*he/she*) may grow in grace and in the knowledge of your love, for the honour and glory of your Name. **Amen.**

*One of the prayers above may be included in the intercession.*

MINISTER:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

# CONFIRMATION

## THE SENTENCES

*One or more of the following shall be said by the Bishop*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *II Corinthians 13:14*

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. *Ephesians 4:4-6*

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

## THE GREETING

V. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

R. **And blessed be His Kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## THE DECLARATION

In the Sacrament of Confirmation the church prays that persons will be further empowered by the Holy Spirit for Christian witness and ministry. This is a new stage in the continuous deepening of a relationship with God that began at Baptism. Those who were baptized in infancy now make a public confession of faith and commitment to Christ and the church. In Confirmation the Spirit continues to enlighten, free, transform and sanctify those who in baptism were adopted as children of God.

The laying on of hands by the Bishop is a sign of the Church's affirmation of this mature choice and a renewed commitment to support the one who has now come for confirmation.

Let us therefore pray that those who now come for Confirmation, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, may continue to live in righteousness and true holiness all their days.

**BISHOP:**       The Lord be with you.

**ALL;**           **And also with you.**

Let us pray

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed in your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Then shall follow the collect of the day*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*The readings are those of the Sunday or Feast Day if the Confirmation takes place at the principal service. At the discretion of the Bishop two or three of the following readings may be used instead.*

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**OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 61:1-9  
 Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Ezekiel 37: 1-10

**PSALMS**

1  
 139:1-9  
 15  
 27

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Romans 8:18-27  
 Romans 12:1-8  
 Galatians 5:15-25  
 Ephesians 4:7,11-16  
 Titus 3:4-8a

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12  
 Matthew 16:24-25  
 Luke 4:16-22  
 John 14:15-21

**THE SERMON****THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION**

**PRIEST:**

Bishop, I present to you these persons who have been duly baptized to be confirmed.

**BISHOP:**

Have you examined them and found them ready and desirous to be confirmed?

**PRIEST:**

I have examined them and found them so to be.

*The Bishop then addresses the confirmands*

You who have come to be confirmed must now renew the solemn promise and vow that you made, or was made, in your name at your baptism, and must pledge to believe and to do all those things which you or your Parents and Godparents then undertook.

Do you declare and promise that you will, with the help of God, **live** your life in the faith of Christ into which you were baptized?

**ANSWER: I do.**

BISHOP:

Do you commit yourself in love to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**ANSWER: I do.**

BISHOP:

Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayer?

**ANSWER: I will.**

BISHOP:

Will you persevere in resisting evil and repent whenever you fall into sin?

**ANSWER: I will.**

BISHOP:

Will you be a witness in your daily life to God's saving work in Christ?

**ANSWER: I will.**

BISHOP:

Will you seek and serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself remembering that every person is loved and valued by God?

**ANSWER: I will.**

BISHOP:

Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

**ANSWER: I do, and with God's help I will follow Christ as my Saviour and Lord.**

*The Bishop then addresses the congregation*

**BISHOP:**

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**ALL:            We will.**

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**BISHOP:**

Let us join with those who are to be confirmed in the profession of our Faith.

**ALL:**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**

**His only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried,**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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*The Act of Penitence may follow:*

*All may kneel to say or sing the "Veni Creator Spiritus" or some other hymn to the Holy Spirit.*

## **PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMANDS**

*The congregation remains kneeling during the prayers*

**BISHOP:**

Let us pray for these persons to be confirmed, and for all the baptized everywhere.

*The Bishop or a person appointed leads the following litany.*

**LEADER:**

That they may be strengthened further in your Holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord in your mercy;

**ALL:           Hear our prayer.**

**LEADER:**

That guided by the Holy Spirit they may continue to grow in your grace and truth.

Lord in your mercy;

**ALL:           Hear our prayer.**

**LEADER:**

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death.

Lord in your mercy;

**ALL:           Hear our prayer.**

**LEADER:**

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That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your Holy Church.

Lord in your mercy;

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

LEADER:

That they may go out into the world to witness to your love and transforming power.

Lord in your mercy;

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

LEADER:

That they be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord in your mercy;

**ALL: Hear our prayer.**

*Silence may be kept. Then the Bishop says the following, stretching out his hands towards the confirmands, all kneeling.*

Father, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given to these your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Holy Spirit, and have given the forgiveness of all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit strengthen them now:

The Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
The Spirit of counsel and inward strength; The  
Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
The Spirit of reverence and true religion;  
and graft in their hearts the love of your most Holy Name:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the same Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**



## THE CONFIRMATION

*Then all of them in order, kneeling, the Bishop lays hands upon the head of each of them saying:*

Confirm O Lord your servant N- with your heavenly grace that *he/she* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until *he/she* comes to your everlasting kingdom.

or

Strengthen O Lord your servant N- with your Holy Spirit that *he/she* may continue yours forever, and daily increase your Holy Spirit more and more until *he/she* comes to your eternal kingdom.

**ALL: Amen.**

*The Bishop may sign each one on the forehead with the Holy Chrism saying:*

The seal of the Spirit, the promise of the Father.

## FOR RECEPTION

N\_, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

## FOR REAFFIRMATION

N\_, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom.

**Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer.*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

**BISHOP:** Christ is our peace, he has reconciled us to God in one Body by the cross.

**ALL:** **We meet in His name and share His peace.**

**BISHOP:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**ALL:** **And also with you.**

*The preface is that for Christian Initiation - Page 130*

## POST COMMUNION

*One of the usual Post-Communion Prayers shall be said.  
One or more of the following prayers may be added.*

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Almighty Father, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your Name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts: Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live His Gospel and eager to do His will, that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We thank you, our God and Father for those who in Confirmation have made a confession of their faith. Help us to encourage them in the way of Christ by our prayers, our friendship and our example that they may fully grow into Him and continue steadfastly in the worship and fellowship of the church to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**BISHOP:**

The Holy Spirit of God lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and to proclaim the word and works of God:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

or

May the God of all grace and power through the Holy Spirit empower you for His Service and sustain you unto Eternal Life:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

# ADULT INITIATION

## Baptism and Eucharist

### THE SENTENCES

*(One or more of the following shall be said:)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

In truth I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born from water and the Spirit. *John 3:5*

By baptism we were buried with Christ and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendour of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the path of life. *Romans 6:4*

### THE GREETING

MINISTER:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

**And blessed be His Kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## THE DECLARATION

MINISTER:

In Holy Baptism, the Church proclaims the Good News of our incorporation into the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom which Jesus Christ, our Incarnate Lord, inaugurated by His life of perfect trust and obedience to the Father.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, he brought into being a people for His own possession, which people we are.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ in Holy Baptism, sharing not only in His death but also in His resurrection, becoming God's children by adoption and grace, thus changing our created nature so deeply that the Holy Scripture says that in Baptism we are born again.

Let us therefore pray that those who have come for Baptism may receive, in this Holy Sacrament, that blessing which by nature they cannot have, that they may be made living members of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, and so be set free from the bondage of sin.

MINISTER: The Lord be with you.

**All:           And also with you.**

MINISTER: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in Him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Then shall follow the Collect of the Day.*

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

The readings are those of the Sunday or Feast Day if the Baptism takes place at the principal service. At the discretion of the Bishop two or three of the following readings may be used instead.

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Exodus 14:10-20  
The Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)

**PSALMS**

23  
42: 1-7  
84

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Romans 6:3-5  
II Cor. 5:17-20  
Acts 16:25-34

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1: 9-11  
John 3: 1-8  
Matt. 28:16-20

**THE SERMON**

**THE PRESENTATION**

*The Minister shall invite sponsors and candidates for Baptism to come forward.*

**SPONSOR:**

I present N- to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Minister asks each candidate when presented:

Do you desire to be baptized?

**CANDIDATE: I do.**

## THE BAPTISMAL VOWS

MINISTER:

Those who come for Baptism must declare their acceptance of Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask

MINISTER:

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Saviour?

**ANSWER: I turn and accept Him.**

MINISTER:

Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

**ANSWER: I so put my trust.**

MINISTER:

Do you promise to love God and obey Him as your Lord?

**ANSWER: I promise.**

MINISTER:

Do you renounce Satan, and all the spiritual forces of wickedness?

**ANSWER: I do.**

MINISTER:

Do you renounce injustice and all the evil powers of this world?

**ANSWER: I do.**

MINISTER:

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

**ANSWER: I do.**

MINISTER:

Do you declare and promise that you will, with the help of God, live your life in the faith of Christ into which you will be baptized?

**ANSWER: I do.**



MINISTER:

Do you commit yourself in love to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**ANSWER: I do.**

MINISTER:

Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**ANSWER: I will.**

MINISTER:

Will you persevere in resisting evil and repent whenever you fall into sin?

**ANSWER: I will.**

MINISTER:

Will you be a witness in your daily life to God's saving work in Christ?

**ANSWER: I will.**

MINISTER:

Will you seek to serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself remembering that every person is loved and valued by God?

**ANSWER: I will.**

MINISTER:

Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

ANSWER:

**I do, and with God's help I will follow Christ as my Saviour and Lord.**

*The Minister then addresses the congregation*

MINISTER:

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**ALL:            We will.**

*The minister says one of the following prayers:*

**A**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are the refuge and defence of all who turn to you for help, the life and peace of those who believe. We pray for these persons (*this person*) that they, (*he/ she*) coming to your Holy Baptism, may be freed from sin and receive your eternal grace and new life in Christ. Accept them (*him/her*) O Lord as you have promised by your well beloved Son, saying, ask and you shall have, seek and you shall find; open the gate to us who knock, that these persons (*this person*) may rejoice in the eternal blessing of your heavenly washing, and may come to the everlasting kingdom which you have promised, by Him who is the resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**B**

Almighty Father, your blessed Son was manifested that he may destroy the works of the devil. Mercifully look upon these (*this*) your servant(s): Set them (*him/her*) free from the power of evil that putting off the old nature and being clothed with the new, they (*he/she*) may be numbered among the children of promise; make them (*him/her*) ready to receive the spirit of grace; through Jesus Christ, your blessed Son, who has opened to us the gate of everlasting life; to whom with you and your holy and life-giving Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Act of Penitence may follow*

## **THE BLESSING OF THE WATER**

V. The Lord be with you.

R. **And also with you.**

V. Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

R. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you Heavenly Father for the gift of water; over it your Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation; through it you led the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt; in it your Son Jesus received the Baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit; fulfilling His ministry by the offering of Himself on the Cross, blood and water flowed from His side.

We thank you Heavenly Father because you have appointed the water of Baptism for the regeneration of all people, through Jesus Christ your Son. In joyful obedience to Him, we make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now therefore sanctify this water by the same Holy Spirit, and grant that all who are baptized in it may be united with Christ, forgiven in Him, set free from the bondage of sin and raised with Christ to eternal life.

By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The minister says to the candidates for Baptism:*

**MINISTER:**

You must now declare before God and the Church, the Christian Faith into which you are to be baptized and in which you will live and grow.

*The minister says to the congregation:*

**MINISTER:**

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our Baptismal commitment.

**QUESTION:**

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER?**

**ANSWER:**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**QUESTION:**

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD?**

**ANSWER:**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

QUESTION:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

ANSWER:

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.**

MINISTER:

This is the faith of the Church.

ALL:

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
(Alleluia! Alleluia!)**

## THE BAPTISM

MINISTER: What is your name?

ANSWER: N\_

*The minister then baptizes the candidates, immersing each person in the water or pours water on (his/her) head, addressing (him/her) by name.*

MINISTER:

N\_ I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*The Minister then makes the sign of the cross, and may do so on the forehead with the Holy Chrism saying;*

God has received you into His Church. I sign you with the Cross, the sign of Christ. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Fight valiantly against all evil and continue Christ's faithful servant to the end of your life.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE LIGHTED CANDLE**

*The minister or another person may light a candle from the Easter Candle and give it to the newly baptized, saying:*

You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light and keep the flame of faith in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet Him in the company of the Saints.

**NEWLY BAPTIZED: Amen.**

*The Benedictus or some other suitable Canticle or a Hymn may be sung while the Procession returns to the Sanctuary.*

## **THE WELCOME**

**MINISTER:**

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we welcome you into the Lord's family. You have been born again in Christ by baptism: you have become members of Christ and of His priestly people. Now as members of the Body of Christ you are heirs to the continuous outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us. By His indwelling, the Spirit who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts, enlightens, frees, sanctifies and transforms us into the likeness of Christ, imparting to us the gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, and empowering us for witness to Christ in the world.

*The service continues with the Giving of the peace*

**MINISTER:**

Christ is our Peace. He has reconciled us to God in one Body by the Cross.

**ALL:**

**We meet in His name and share His Peace.**

**MINISTER:**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

**ALL: And also with you.**

*The Preface is that for Christian Initiation, Page 130*

## **POST COMMUNION**

*One of the usual Post-Communion prayers shall be said.*

*One or more of the following prayers may be added*

Almighty Father, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your Name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts; grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live His Gospel and eager to do His will, that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We thank you, our God and Father for those who in Baptism have made a public confession of their faith. Help us to encourage them in the way of Christ by our prayers, our friendship and our example that they may fully grow up into Him and continue steadfastly in the worship and fellowship of the Church to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

MINISTER:

The Holy Spirit of God lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and to proclaim the word and works of God:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the

Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

or

May the God of all grace and power through the Holy Spirit empower you for His Service and sustain you unto Eternal Life:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

or

May the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



# CONDITIONAL BAPTISM

*In case there is reasonable doubt that a person has been baptized with water, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," or if there is reason to believe that the person had received a form of baptism that contained a defect in intention the person is baptized in the usual manner, but this form of words is used.*

If you are not already baptized, N-, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# EMERGENCY BAPTISM

*In case of emergency, where a person faces imminent death, any baptized person may administer baptism according to the following form.*

*Using the given name of the one to be baptized ( if known), pour water on him or her, saying:*

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer is then said.*

*Other prayers, such as the following may be added.*

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin and have raised *him/her* to the new life of grace. Strengthen *him/ her*, O Lord, with your presence, enfold *him/her* in the arms of your mercy, and keep *him/her* yours for ever. **Amen.**

*The person who administers emergency baptism should inform the priest of the appropriate parish, so that the baptism may be properly registered.*

*If the baptized person recovers, the baptism shall be recognized at a public celebration of the sacrament. The person baptized under emergency conditions and his or her sponsors shall take part in all parts of the baptismal liturgy, except for the baptism in water itself.*

**ADMISSION OF PERSONS BAPTIZED  
IN OTHER COMMUNIONS  
INTO THE COMMUNICANT  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH  
IN THE PROVINCE  
OF THE WEST INDIES**

*Persons eligible to be admitted by this form are those who have been baptized in the name of the Trinity in a Communion recognized by the Anglican Communion.*

*The Bishop is the minister of this rite.*

*The rite is normally performed in the context of a Confirmation service after the Confirmands have received the laying on of hands.*

*The Bishop may authorize the admission of the person to Holy Communion pending formal admission.*

*Those to be admitted are brought to the Bishop by the priest, who says:*

Bishop, I present to you N\_ and N\_ (*or these persons*) who desire to be admitted into the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

*The Bishop says to them:*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, peace be with you. Before I admit you, I invite you to declare publicly your faith in God in whose name you were baptized.

*Reaffirmation of Promises 308 in the CPWI*

Do you believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and accept the Christian faith as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

**ANSWER: I do.**

We praise God that together we know His saving grace in Jesus Christ. We rejoice that God has given you the desire to express your Christian discipleship within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion and in the family of this Diocese and Province. We pray that we may be mutually encouraged and enriched by each other's faith and learn from each other's heritage.

Do you acknowledge the Church in the Province of the West Indies to be a true part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church?

**ANSWER: I do.**

Do you accept its ministry of Bishops, priests and deacons, and believe its sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion to be those which Christ appointed?

**ANSWER: I do.**

Will you be a loyal member of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, accepting its discipline as well as its teaching, and will you faithfully share in its worship, work and witness?

**ANSWER: I will.**

Almighty God who gives you the will to do all these things, grant you grace and power to perform them, that He may complete the good work He has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Bishop gives to all those who are to be admitted the right hand of fellowship, saying:*

N- We receive you into the Church in the Province of the West Indies and into the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

*He may add a blessing.*

*The Bishop and congregation welcome those who have been admitted.*

**We welcome you into our fellowship.  
We are members together of the Body of Christ;  
We are children of the same heavenly Father;  
We are inheritors of the kingdom of God.  
We welcome you.**

# REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*The minister of this service is the priest or any other person duly authorised and instructed by him.*

*Baptismal promises may be renewed on appropriate occasions when the people have been duly prepared.*

*Such renewal normally takes place during public worship, but not at services of Christian Initiation ( apart from the Easter Vigil) unless the Bishop gives permission.*

*The minister and the congregation may offer free and spontaneous prayer.*

*All say together*

**Grant, Lord that we who have been baptized into union with Christ, may never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight valiantly under His banner against sin, the world and the devil, and to continue His faithful soldiers and servants to the end of our lives.**

*The minister then addresses those who wish to renew their promises in these or similar words:*

In our baptism we died with Christ and were buried with Him, so that we might rise with Him to a new life within the family of His Church.

We can never be baptized again, but we can, in response to a movement of God's Spirit and after careful preparation, reaffirm the promises made at our baptism.

So I invite you who are ready to do so to reaffirm your baptismal promises.

QUESTION:

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Saviour?

ANSWER: **I turn and accept Him.**

QUESTION:

Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

ANSWER: **I so put my trust.**

QUESTION:

Do you promise to love God and obey Him as your Lord?

ANSWER: **I promise.**

QUESTION:

Do you renounce Satan, and all the spiritual forces of wickedness?

ANSWER: **I do.**

QUESTION:

Do you renounce injustice and all the evil powers of this world?

ANSWER: **I do.**

*The minister says:*

Now in allegiance to Christ you must declare before God and His Church that you accept the Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you will continue to live and grow.

QUESTION:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

ANSWER:

**I believe and trust in Him.**

QUESTION:

Do you believe and trust in His Son Jesus Christ in whom we have redemption?

ANSWER:

**I believe and trust in Him.**

QUESTION:

Do you believe and trust in His Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

ANSWER:

**I believe and trust in Him.**

*The minister says:*

This is the faith of the Church.

**ALL:**

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**



*The minister says*

Will you live in obedience to God's laws, as a loyal member of His Church?

**ALL:                      With God's help, I will.**

MINISTER:

Almighty God who gives you the will to do all these things, grant you grace and power to perform them, that He may complete the good work He has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL:                      Amen.**

*The minister says one or both of these prayers*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole of creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**ALL:                    Amen.**

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts, grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live His gospel and eager to do His will, that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL:                    Amen.**

*All say together*

**Eternal God  
you have declared in Christ  
the completion of your purpose of love.  
May we live by faith, walk in hope**

**and be renewed in love,  
until the world reflects your glory  
and you are all in all.  
Even so; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

# Statement on Confirmation

## The Catechism

*Page 412 in the CPWI Book of Common Prayer.*

### **125 What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation is the rite in which persons willingly express a mature commitment to Christ, publicly renewing the vows and promises made at their baptism and receive strength by the indwelling Holy Spirit, accompanied by prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

### **126 What is required of those to be confirmed?**

It is required of those to be confirmed that they are baptized, sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, penitent for their sins, and are ready to publicly affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; and strengthened, by His indwelling Spirit, are determined to grow in every aspect of their lives in accordance with God's will.

**CHURCH IN THE PROVINCE  
OF THE WEST INDIES**