

## Baptismal Formula

\_\_\_\_\_ I baptize you in the name of God giver of life, mother and father of us all,

in the name of Jesus the compassionate one,

and in the power of the Holy Spirit who makes all things new.

Receive the kiss of peace and give thanks, for God is good And you are God's beloved child.



## Who is baptized in the UCC?

Infants, children, youth and adults. For infants and children, as well as for youth and adults who have never been baptized before, baptism marks their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of God's grace and forgiveness, and the beginning of their Christian faith and life.



### Are sponsors present?

Parents, in consultation with the pastor, may choose sponsors or Godparents for infants and young children who are to be baptized. At the time of the baptismal service, the sponsors, who accompany the candidates and present them for baptism, may make promises identical to the promises of the parents concerning their role.

United Church  
of Christ  
in Simi Valley  
An Inclusive Congregation

370 Royal Ave.  
Simi Valley, CA 9305  
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For more information about our community, including our principles and core values visit our website:  
[www.uccsimi.org](http://www.uccsimi.org)

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### *Baptizing your Child*

*Whoever you are, wherever  
you are on life's journey  
you are welcome here!*

Imagine raising your  
child in a community  
that honors diversity  
and gender equality  
for all!

# *Baptism in the United Church of Christ*

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Jesus said, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child, shall not enter it. Baptism is a sign and seal of God's grace. It reminds us as Christians that we are God's beloved sons and daughters in the family of Christ/Christa.

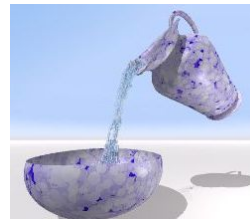
More than a naming ceremony, Baptism is a right of passage into Christian identity that reminds us we are not alone. It also offers us a place to belong, not to an elite club but to an inclusive and welcoming family of believers.

In Baptism we celebrate God's abundant and generous love.

As we rejoice and give thanks for the wisdom and power of God that Jesus shared with his disciples, we affirm our hope in a loving, forgiving, encouraging God. As Jesus welcomed the children in his midst, we welcome them too. We welcome them knowing that Jesus blessed them and laid his hands upon them with compassion and grace.

## **The Use of Water**

Water is an essential element of baptism. Water is a prominent symbol of cleansing and life in the Bible—the water of creation, the great flood, the liberation of Israel through the sea, the water of Mary's womb, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, the woman at the well, and Jesus' washing of the feet of the disciples. That is why water is visibly present in the service. In the United Church of Christ, the mode of baptism is a matter of choice. Some traditions use sprinkling, some pouring, and some immersion. At UCC Simi, water is gently sprinkled on the child's forehead.



## **A Time for Baptism**

Baptism is a personal celebration in the lives of the individual candidates and their families. It is also a celebration within the local church family and a recognition of its commitment. For this reason, baptism is celebrated in the presence of the community gathered for worship.

If circumstances require baptism to take place outside of corporate worship, members of the local church, if possible, may participate in the ceremony with the pastor. In urgent circumstances, such as imminent death, any Christian may perform the baptism.

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