

BAPTISM

DEAD TO SIN. ALIVE IN CHRIST.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a God-given way to publicly declare our dependence on Christ alone for our salvation. It's not a way to become saved, but rather a beautiful symbol of the salvation we already have.

WHO SHOULD GET BAPTIZED?

Christians. After a person begins a relationship with Jesus Christ, whether old or young, they're ready to follow Christ in baptism. This is the only prerequisite!

WHY SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

- To follow Christ's example (Matthew 3:13-17)
- To obey Christ's command (Matthew 28:18-20)
- To publicly tell others about your faith in Jesus and desire to follow Him (Acts 16:16-34)
- To renounce your past and announce your hope of new life in Christ (Romans 6:1-11; Galatians 2:20)

HOW ARE BAPTISMS PERFORMED AT CHRIST COMMUNITY?

At Christ Community, we follow the practice of baptism by immersion. That means the whole person is placed into a body of water and immersed from head to toe. The word "baptize" literally means "to immerse, dip, or plunge." When a Christian is immersed and comes out of the water, it represents their being united with Christ in His burial and His resurrection, and absorbed into new life in Him. (Romans 6:1-4)

WHEN AND WHERE ARE BAPTISMS PERFORMED AT CHRIST COMMUNITY?

Public Baptism Celebration Services are conducted during our weekend worship services in the baptistery on the stage in the Sanctuary twice a year, usually in mid-November and late April or early May. Specific upcoming dates are posted in advance. Look for announcements in the newsletter and other online locations. If you're baptized in one of our services, it's necessary that you first complete the online orientation process and complete the baptism information form. It's important that you arrive on time for the service in which you will be baptized and bring with you the person you wish to baptize you, if you have one. Otherwise, one of our pastors will be on hand to baptize you. We also encourage you to invite your friends and relatives to celebrate your baptism with you.

You may also choose to be baptized in a more private setting with your small group, family and friends participating. We believe these baptism settings are as powerful and meaningful as those done in the Sanctuary in a larger setting.

CAN A FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. If you're not sure whether a child is ready to be baptized, let us know and we'll help you discern this.

WHAT ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED AGAIN?

We recommend that you be baptized again if you haven't been baptized since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience, but simply reflects your desire to celebrate your new life in Christ. If you were baptized as an infant, it was an expression of your parents' desire that you follow Jesus and declare yourself to be His. Your baptism reflecting your desire to follow Christ is an expression of the fact that your parents' desire has been fulfilled, not a repudiation of their decision to baptize you as an infant.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. Worship will be taking place as you're being baptized, and apart from any personal interaction you might have with the person baptizing you, you will not need to speak publicly.

WHO WILL BAPTIZE ME?

While there will be Christ Community pastors on-hand to baptize you, we invite you to ask a person who has been a part of your spiritual journey to baptize you (the person who brought you to Christ, a small group leader or mentor, a close spiritual friend, parent, spouse, etc.). Be sure to ask them in advance and let us know.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO THE SERVICE?*

- A bathing suit and t-shirt, or a t-shirt and long pants or shorts. We encourage women to wear a bathing suit, or shorts and a dark top.
- Aqua socks or something for your feet to keep you from slipping (if desired).
- A towel.
- A plastic bag or something similar to take home your wet clothes.
- A hairbrush/comb and hair dryer (if desired).
- A change of clothes.

*The person baptizing you should bring these things as well.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE SERVICE ITSELF?

Come to the service in which you'll be baptized changed into what you'll be baptized in so you're ready to go. Have the person baptizing you do likewise. If you choose to change at church you can do so in either the men's or women's restrooms throughout the building. You don't need to sit in any particular place in the Sanctuary, but will be directed by the pastor leading the service at the appropriate time. One of our pastors will be present to direct you more specifically once you arrive at the designated place in the Sanctuary. Someone will be on-hand to take your towel before you're baptized and give it back to you afterwards. After you're baptized you're encouraged to return to your seat, even though you'll be a bit wet. At the conclusion of the service it's customary for one of our pastors to have people gather around you for a word of prayer and blessing, and we don't want you to miss this because you're changing into dry clothes.

CAN SOMEONE TAKE PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF ME BEING BAPTIZED?

We will have a photographer on-hand to take pictures that we'll later save to Dropbox, giving you the link to access these pictures. However you may also have a friend or member of your family take personal pictures or a video. All that we ask is that they don't stand directly in front of the baptistery, blocking the view of people in the congregation and the camera recording the baptisms for projection on the screens.

I'D LIKE TO GET BAPTIZED. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Simply watch the various videos on this site and complete the online *Baptism Information Form*. After we receive your form we'll be in touch.

WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

No problem! Feel free to wrestle with them and process them with a pastor here at Christ Community. Pastors are available to answer any specific questions you might have by clicking on the icon on the baptism page.

