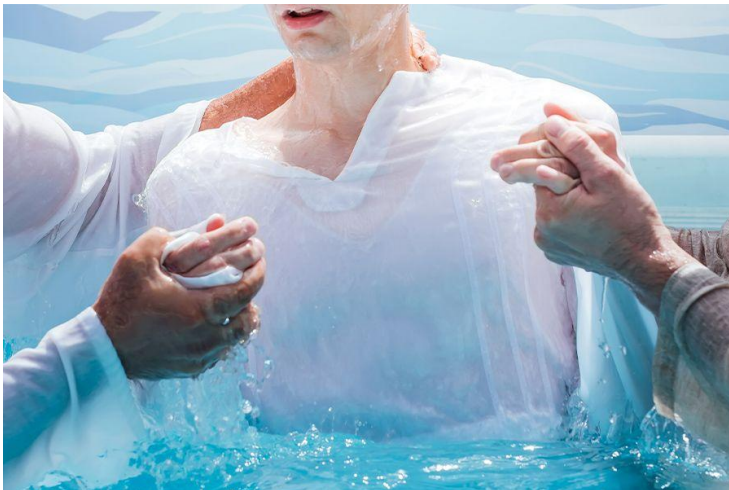




Baptism for Adults at All Saints Church Halifax

We're delighted that you're interested in finding out more about Baptism.

This sheet gives you some idea about the promises you make and the practicalities. If you have any questions please do get in touch, we are always happy to take the time to talk it through in person.

Baptisms normally happen in the morning service at 10:30am at All Saints and there is no cost for the service.

Our 10:30 service is informal and often lively, you'll find a range of ages and families in the service and a warm welcome from those who gather. If you're bringing children know, we're used to noise from children and really don't mind, but there is a creche you can use too if you need it (but honestly, we feel blessed at the noise little ones can make!) and groups for children of all ages. If there is anything you are not sure about just ask, you'll find everyone came for the first time once and will be happy to help

A Service of Baptism

A Baptism service is full of meaning and has some distinct sections. Baptism is a public service, as you are declaring your faith to the world. Faith isn't a private matter, it's something that changes who you are alongside the decisions and choices you make, it affects not just you, but the people around you. We mark this event together, as the family of God.

In this service, you declare what you believe about who God is and what he has done, and what you will do, or not do, in response. You'll see these most clearly in these questions you'll be asked to respond to.

We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.
Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?	I do
Do you reject evil?	I do
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?	I do
Do you trust in him as Lord?	I do

You'll also declare faith, alongside the congregation in the creed (our statement of what our faith is). A reminder that faith isn't lived alone.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

A prayer over the water is said. This is a reminder of the great story of God and his people, that we are part of. We set the water aside for this special purpose of Baptism and ask God to bless it.

Many adults choose to have a Baptism by full immersion, in a pool (or river or sea), where the whole person is put in the water and lifted out, as Jesus was in the river Jordan. Others choose to have a baptism over water in the font, where they are sprinkled with water, in the way you might see a child being baptised. We offer both options at All Saints.

You will be asked again, if you want to be baptised, and there will be an opportunity to share some of the reasons you've chosen to be baptised. Some people will have prepared something to share, others will be interviewed, others have pre recorded something to play on the screen, others will have written something to be handed out to the congregation. This is agreed in advance.

Using the water the candidate is baptised using the ancient prayer used across all churches.

Name, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This part of the service is loaded with symbolism - Being washed from the sins that separate us from God – dying to the old life and starting a new one – needing the water of life. Many of these ideas are explored in Baptism preparation that adults would be expected to be part of.

There are no God parents in an adult service, but sometimes people who have helped your faith to grow will stand alongside the candidate in support.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Stand bravely with him

against all the powers of evil,

and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

The congregation then welcomes the candidate, recognising their place as a brother or sister in Christ.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism
Name, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

Towards the end of the service, each candidate is given a candle, a symbol of Christ's light and their responsibility to carry it into the world.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.
**Shine as a light in the world,
to the glory of God the Father.**

We know making the decision to be Baptised as an adult is a significant one, and we'll be with you every step of the way. If you are particularly nervous of being at the front, it's good to remember that the focus of the service is on who God is and what he's done, rather than on you. You are choosing to respond to his welcome and grace as millions do each year.

Whether you would like to discuss these options more, or have decided you want to go ahead, the next step is to get in touch. One of the team will come and visit to talk through your options, allow you to ask any questions you might have and talk about how we will prepare you for the service. We look forward to hearing from you.

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