



## The Sacrament of Baptism

In preparing for Confirmation

On the Feast Day of the Baptism of the Lord

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life,  
and have it abundantly.'

- **Baptism is**

About Covenant --- From the inception of God's interactional activity with people, covenant was God's way of structuring relationships

- A rite of initiation into the Household of God—1979 BCP full rite of initiation
- Celebrating the gift each person brings to the worshipping community
- Keeping the promise to follow and obey Jesus as our Lord, "with God's help"
- Being buried with Christ in his death and rising in Christ into new life

Our Baptismal life or---The ministry of all the baptized  
The congregation identifies and calls forth those who are leaders and the special gifts needed within their community in a variety of ministry areas ....

(i.e., preaching, pastoral care, music, administration, youth, Christian Education/formation, outreach, sacramental ministry, altar guild, building and Grounds keeping...etc...)



**Ancient peoples of many cultures recognized water as a potent symbol. When used ceremonially, it could express the notion of cleanliness or purity.**



Baptized persons are immersed in water as a sign of their “repentance and the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4). This action was at once a personal sign of rededication to the God of Israel and a sign of cleansing of ceremonial impurity.

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. This is one of very few stories in all 4 Gospels. John resists doing it, saying he is unworthy. Jesus insists. The Holy Spirit descends “like a dove”, Father speaks from Heaven, “This is My Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Entire Trinity present.)

Jesus’ coming to John to be Baptized in the Jordan River

Hearing the Divine Voice  
The pure gift of Divine Love



## Let's Review

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body, the Church. The bond which God establishes at Baptism is indissoluble." Book of Common Prayer, page 298

Holy Baptism. Article 27 (XXVII) of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion  
a sign of Regeneration or New-Birth

God is the primary actor, and humans participate.

Baptism is a rite of initiation into the Christian faith whereby a person becomes a member of the household of God

Biblical descriptive:

- ❖ Spiritual Rebirth (John 3:3-10)
- ❖ Spiritual Awakening (Romans 8:37-39)
- ❖ Initiation into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-13)
- ❖ Transformation of the whole person (Romans 12:1-2)
- ❖ Made a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- ❖ To turn from darkness to light (Ephesians 5:8, Colossians 1:11-14)
- ❖ To be saved (Titus 3:3-7)



Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by Baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4).

The work of the church is to Prepare people to participate in the mission of God



Our baptismal journey is: By one spirit in one body of Christos in union with all who are baptized 1 Colossians 12:13  
Living more deeply into the newness of life that empowers us to do the kingdom work that Jesus called disciples or followers—preparing, equipping, responding to the mission of God.

HOW?

Discovering the voice of God, interiorly or exteriorly to discover our individual areas of giftedness, our passions for Justice, for Scripture, for Prayer, for Worship, for Teaching ...living out the Baptismal Covenant

Engaging these gifts and following the way of Jesus as an outward expression of God's love and generosity as well as an expression of kingdom purpose

# Confirmation is

The claiming of baptism and an invitation to a life of deeper discipleship lived in community

Let's look at Baptism meanings....share a story or what you know about your

Baptism..... And how does that relate to the ministry that you do and love?



## Confirmation preparation includes re- discovering our promises:

- 1- Baptismal identity—in the context of the Baptismal Covenant
- 2- Discovering our Gifts to live out our identity
- 3- Passion for serving others to follow the way of Jesus

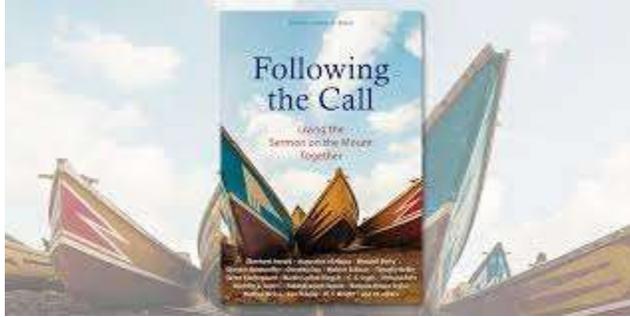
Discovering our baptismal identities  
recognizing the spiritual gifts



Giftedness is not about privilege or special skills and talents. It is about listening more deeply to, and following more fully, the deepest desires of our hearts and God's leading in our lives.

How is it with your prayer life?

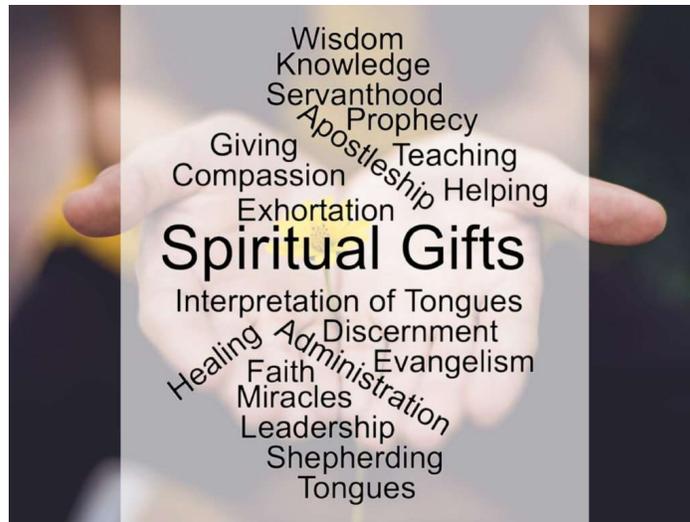
At the end of every teaching session, according to the Apostolic Tradition (19), teachers laid hands on the candidates and prayed for them



**How is God calling you?**

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10) “Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)

- At our baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons.
- Every one of us is called by our loving God to live a life of faithful service. Ministry in daily life
- As a congregation, fulfillment of our covenant and promise through worship and engaging in active ministries depends upon the efforts and contributions of all members



Discovering your Charism ----Spiritual Gifts Inventory

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

<https://mintools.com/spiritual-gifts-test.htm>

<https://www.pastoralcareinc.com/surveys/spiritual-gifts-inventory/>

Prayer Practices –Discovering our Gifts

Telling our Stories/ listening and discerning

Nurturing our souls—Spiritual direction

Explore our Promises –theological reflection



Putting our faith  
into action