



Baptism



Baptism is a big deal!

We are excited to support and celebrate this moment with you, but first we want to make sure you know exactly what you are doing!

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

MATTHEW 3:13-17

At Jesus' baptism the entire trinity is present!

Jesus expresses a need to be baptized and allows John to baptize him. After his baptism, we hear the voice of God saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." This statement comes before Jesus Christ has begun his ministry, it comes before his sacrifice on the cross, and it comes before his resurrection from the grave. Jesus heard and experienced his Father's approval **before he had accomplished anything** in his earthly ministry.



At your baptism, you need to know that you already have our Father's love and approval.

*You don't need to earn his favor;
you don't need to work for his love.*

CHECK OUT THIS SCRIPTURE!

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and understanding.

EPHESIANS 1:4-8

What is baptism?



Baptism is the sign of admission into God's covenant people.

Simply put, it makes you part of the Church; and not just Fair Oaks Church, but the global Church. It is a **sign and seal** of the covenant of grace. Baptism also proclaims God's forgiveness and our redemption in Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS A SIGN?

A sign points to something! Just like our baptism points to the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS A SEAL?

A seal is a guarantee! Think of it as a certificate of authenticity! Were you an authentic believer before? Absolutely! But now you have publically declared your faith to your church, your family, and the entire community!



Baptism is one of two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church.

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

Something that Jesus has commanded us to do that presents the entire Gospel to those participating and those observing.

We define sacrament as something ordained by Christ and representative of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Meaning that whenever we administer the sacraments, everyone present is able to view and hear the gospel.



**THE TWO SACRAMENTS:
BAPTISM AND COMMUNION**

Who is baptism for?

All believers and their children!

- **Christ-Followers** who are **beginning** their new life in Christ.
(Matthew 28:18-20, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12)
- **Christ-Followers** who are **leaving** their old, dead way of life.
(Matthew 3:2, 6; Colossians 3:9-10)
- **Christ-Followers** who are **identifying** themselves with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection.
(Acts 19:1-5; Romans 6:1-12, 1 Peter 1:3)

Only Christ-followers should be baptized.

WE BELIEVE...

We believe that baptism is an act of obedience that normally occurs after our salvation in Jesus Christ. However, we also believe that the baptism of an infant is both appropriate and beneficial because it includes them in the community of believers and readies everyone in their lives to participate in God's providential plan for them.

We do not believe that the baptism of an infant saves the infant, but we do believe that it sets apart both the believer and their families as God's people.

We also believe in the reenactment of baptism. We do not re-baptize people. Sometimes, when someone reaches maturity in their faith or has a homecoming moment, we will allow them to reenact their baptism. This is just affirming something that happened long ago and is for mutual encouragement of the church body and the believer.

When should I be baptized?

A believer should decide to be baptized when the following things are true in their life, or they desire them to be true in their child.

BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SAVIOR OF MAN.

WILLING TO LIVE IN FAITH AND
OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS.

READY TO PURSUE HOLINESS
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

WILLING TO LOVE OTHERS WITH
THE SAME DEFERENCE AND
INTENTION OF CHRIST.

How are we baptized?



At Fair Oaks Church we baptize believers through the sprinkling of water or immersion in water.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the pastor and the privilege of the family to participate in the believer's baptism.

For your baptism you need to bring:

Appropriate baptism clothing (dark clothes please),
a towel, and a change of clothes.

Be ready to answer this question:



What has led you here to be baptized?



Think about these factors in your answer:

- How were you raised?
- What childhood experiences influenced your faith?
- What is your family's faith history?
- Who played a significant role in your faith development?
- How has your heart moved because of the Bible teaching/preaching/reading you have experienced?
- What role has the church played in your faith?
- What recent experiences have led you to this decision?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE BAPTIZED?



**FAIR
OAKS
CHURCH**