



THE  
**Baptism**  
OF  
**Your Child**

A BOOK FOR PRESBYTERIAN FAMILIES



CAROL A. WEHRHEIM

# The Day of Baptism

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child of

---

---

was baptized

on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

at \_\_\_\_\_  
(church, city)

by \_\_\_\_\_  
(pastor)

# The Baptism of Your Child

A Book for Presbyterian Families



Carol A. Wehrheim

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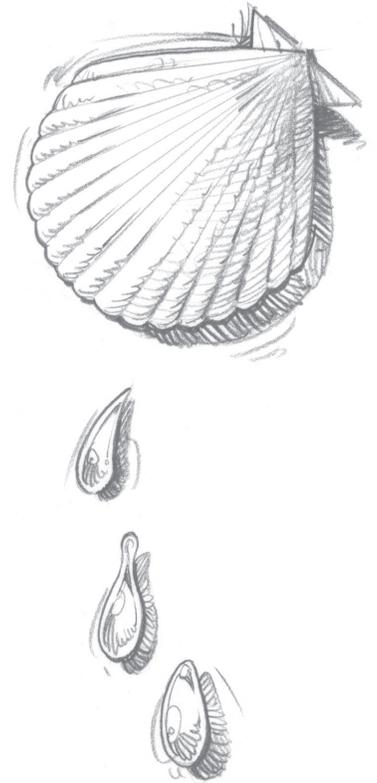
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# Baptizing Your Child

Child of blessing, child of promise,  
Baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
With this water God has sealed you  
Unto love and grace divine.

—Ronald S. Cole-Turner, "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"



# Congratulations!

You have begun a wonderful and exciting journey with your child. You began that journey long before this moment, but the day of your child's baptism will announce to the world and your church family that this journey is under way and that they are included.

As you prepare for your child's baptism, think about the family members and friends you want to be with you and your child, not only at the baptism but during the following years. Invite them in plenty of time so that they can make arrangements to be present. What memories do you want to provide for your child about this day? The stories you tell and the pictures you enjoy over and over will become your child's own when they are incorporated into your child's memory.

In this book you will find information and help as you parent your child for the years ahead. Keep it in a place where you will remember to refer to it often, and make it an active part of your role as the faith nurturer of your child.

May the baptism of your child rekindle your own faith, and may it be a day of great joy for you, your family, and your congregation. God's blessings on your family.

## A Prayer for the Family

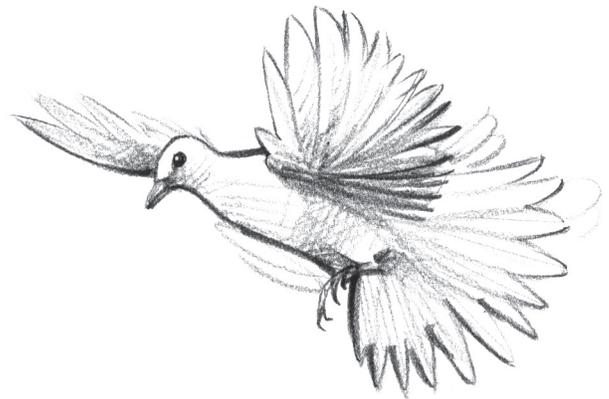
Loving God, who created families to nurture faith,  
send your Spirit now to this family.

Give the adults in this child's life the wisdom and courage  
to be models of faithful living.

Remind the congregation to enfold this child  
into their loving arms.

May the occasion of this child's baptism  
be a moment for all your people to remember your grace,  
freely given to all who know you.

In Christ's name. Amen.



## Questions and Answers about Baptism

### ***Q. Just what is baptism?***

A. Baptism is a sacrament of the Christian church. In the Protestant and Reformed traditions, baptism is one of two sacraments. The other is Communion, also known as the Eucharist and the Lord's Supper. For these congregations, the sacraments are those instituted by Jesus through his own baptism (Luke 3:21–22) and through his words at the Last Supper, before he was arrested in the garden (22:14–20).

Baptism today is how the church follows Jesus' commission to the disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19–20). A sacrament is a sign and symbol of God's love and mercy. It is a means of grace, a way that we receive God's love that is freely given, based on nothing that we have done to earn it. In baptism, we begin a new life with Christ.

### ***Q. What happens during a baptism?***

A baptism typically has these elements: Presentation of the Baptismal Candidate, Profession of Faith, Thanksgiving over the Water, The Act of Baptism, and Welcome. The ritual for a service of baptism is on pages 10–14. The words may vary from pastor to pastor, but the meaning will be much the same. The pastor asks parents and others present to commit to teach and model the Christian faith for the child and dabs or pours a small amount of water on the child's forehead.

Sometimes children in the congregation are invited to sit near the baptismal font for an infant baptism. They may be asked a question, such as, "Will you be a friend to (*child*) and help him/her learn about Jesus?" Your older children may be invited to stand with you