

4. In the water... You will be baptized by one of the church Pastors, but you are welcome to have another support person with you who can assist you as well.
5. As you are baptized the Pastor will say... “I baptize you (name) in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
6. As you come back up out of the water... the Pastor and those gathered will pray for you and bring words of encouragement.

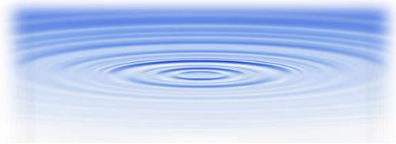
There are a few other things that may be helpful to know.

- You may want to have some music, or a favourite song played when you have been baptized?
- You will need a towel and dry clothes to change into afterwards
- You may want to invite family and friends to support and witness your baptism

There are also a few things we need to officiate your baptism.

- Your full name, and parent’s names for a baptism certificate (and our register)
- We prefer to have a photo and a brief sentence about why you are coming for baptism (for our bulletin announcement to our congregations)
- Permission from parents if you are a dependent (under 18 years)

If you need more information, or want to discuss things further, please contact of Office – 03 489 6308, office@etchurch.co.nz – and someone will direct you to an appropriate contact.



East Taieri Church

Christian Baptism – What is it all about?



Baptism is the action of being immersed in water (a pool, a river, at the beach etc) which witnesses a decision of coming to faith in Jesus.

You do not need to be a “super Christian.” No one deserves it or earns it – Jesus died for us all while we were still sinners and salvation is given to us through grace and mercy. The main thing is that you have turned away from your sins (repentance) and trust in Jesus as your Saviour and Lord.

Is it essential to salvation? ‘Yes’ and ‘No’. ‘No’ in the sense that it is not an absolute requirement - the Bible account tells us that there was a criminal hung on a cross beside Jesus who came to faith before he too died, but he was not baptized. And ‘Yes’ because the Bible also outlines that it is a part (as a witness) of the whole salvation process.

Jesus commanded it. In Matthew 28, he instructed his followers: ***“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”***

And in Mark 16, he told them: ***“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”***

And then the Apostle Paul wrote in Titus 3:

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared (that is, when Jesus came) ***he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy; by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.***

Those two things - washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit – are the two spiritual outcomes of being baptized.

In God’s way, real life is born of death. Just as a seed falls to the ground and dies to bring forth a new plant, God begins a new life of faith within us – and again, baptism is the public witness of this new life and the faith you have come to.

In Romans 6, Paul writes: ***Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.***

For this reason, the church of Jesus believes that all believers should receive baptism when they believe. It is our recognized response to what God has done through Jesus.

So, how about you? Do you believe in Jesus? Are you ready to step into the new life that he has promised to us? If your answer is “Yes!”, then we are ready too!

Two good questions to ask yourself about this step

- Are you confident that you have a relationship with God and have eternal life through Jesus?
- What might you say to someone who asked you about why you want to be baptized?

How does it work in practice?

1. If you are willing, we encourage you to share a short testimony of your journey and why you want to be baptized...
2. We ask you to affirm your faith by asking you three questions...

Do you confess your faith in God as your heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your helper and guide?

Do you promise to serve Jesus and grow as his follower, through all the gifts of grace he has given us and being a committed member of the Body of Christ?

Will you be a faithful member of Christ’s church giving yourself to her mission; and will you seek to join with other followers of Jesus wherever you are?

3. Those gathered to support you are then asked for their affirmation...