

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

Presentation of New Members

Following the hymn of the day, those being welcomed, representative/s of the congregation, and ministers gather at the font or at a convenient place before the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.

Cathy and Bob have come to our congregation from *our neighbourhood!*

Apostles' Creed

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sister and brother in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

A hymn, song, or psalm may be sung as the new members return to their places within the assembly.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession. The following or a similar petition may be included for those being welcomed as new members.

We give you thanks for *our new members, Cathy and Bob*,
whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ
and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.

Keep us close together in your Spirit,
in the breaking of bread and the prayers,
and in service to others.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Welcoming new members is a significant occasion in the life of the congregation. Resources for use in the congregation's worship vary depending on the needs of those being welcomed.

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