



O'HALLORAN HILL

We're so happy you've decided to be baptised!

Baptism is an outward testimony of the inward change in your life. It declares your faith, shares in Christ's burial and resurrection, symbolises death to your old life, and announces your new life in Christ and commitment to the local church. Baptism is also a celebration of your inclusion in God's family.

"Praise God for the privilege of being in Christ's family and being called by his wonderful name!" (1 Peter 4:16 LB)

In preparation for your baptism, we wanted to share a few resources. Take some time this week to dive into what it really means to be baptised!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

The word "baptism" is simply a translation of the Greek word, baptisma, meaning dipping or submerging. When an object is submerged, it's totally covered and becomes identified with a new substance. Baptism is all about this submersion into a new identity.

*"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."
Galatians 3:27*

WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

Just as Jesus died on the cross, going into the water for baptism becomes a personal connection you now have to His death. In coming out of the water, you now symbolically come back to life with Jesus.

*"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."
Galatians 2:20*

Whatever of your old identity you carried can be left behind with your old life in the cleansing waters. This is not a physical cleaning but a moment to celebrate what God has already done in your heart! Baptism is a special moment that joins your story to Jesus' death and resurrection, reminding you that the very saving grace of God that broke the power of sin in your life now lives in you.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus saved us not only by bringing us from death to life, but also by restoring us to a perfect relationship with God. In Christ, we are now children of God. As Rick Warren says, "Your baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual truth. It represents what happened the moment God brought you into His family."

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1

You were created for family, designed for community. Maybe you have a great biological family or maybe that's not your story, but God never meant for us to be alone. Baptism isn't a ticket to heaven or an entry requirement to an exclusive heavenly club; it symbolizes the belonging and acceptance that only the perfect Father can give His children. If an adopted child takes on the last name of their new parent, then that last name tells everyone exactly who they belong with! The new name doesn't make the child more adopted or change the adoption papers, but every time someone says it aloud, the child is assured, "This is who I am now!" Like an adopted child, being baptized shows our new identity in Christ and reveals one of the great purposes of your life: to be in community in God's family!

"Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why He isn't ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters." Hebrews 2:11

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Paul said when we are baptized that our "old humanity" is buried with Christ. What parts of your "old humanity" are you taking into the waters of baptism, to bury?
2. When we are raised from the waters of baptism, Paul says we are raised up with Christ to newness of life. What parts of your life do you want to see remade, made new, and filled with Christ's own life?
3. What does the visual of being buried with Christ, and raised with Christ, mean to you? What does it mean for your relationship with God?
4. Peter said that we "are saved by the waters of baptism" or, in other words, the faith we release to God when we are baptized connects us to His salvation. What parts of your past do you need Jesus to save, redeem, and restore?
5. When we are baptized, God rewrites our history and recasts our future, in line with the life of His Son. What sort of promises is God the Father giving to you, now, that helps you both break from your past and re-envision your future. (2 Peter 1:3-4 discusses the power of His promises.)
6. What does a new thought life, a new emotional life, a new way of choosing each look like for you? How are you, with the Holy Spirit, reimagining your life after baptism?

We will give you a black Tee to wear and provide a towel for your use (please return this after the service). Remember to bring dry clothes for afterwards.
