

Sacrament of Baptism

In the Sacrament of Baptism, we celebrate God's love. This is what we do! It is a love which we believe has surrounded people everywhere from their very beginning. No matter the age – we are all children of the Creator.

Hear this record of Jesus' radical invitation for welcoming children as told in scripture:

"People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. And Jesus took them up in his arms and blessed them.'" Baptism is about belonging!

In Baptism, we affirm the faithfulness of God ... we anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit in powerful and life-giving ways.

This sacrament of baptism marks the beginning of a new relationship with God for all of us. We trust that Isabella may find the companionship and encouragement needed for her journey of faith and life in the companionship of Christ's presence and spirit among us.

May we, too, as a congregation, be inspired by Christ's call in our lives as a faith community to reach out in Christian love and welcome to all who choose to participate in the journey of faith.

May God's grace and blessing be known as we celebrate this sacrament together.

An Introduction (rep of the Worship Committee)

I present to you, the congregation of Central Saanich United Church, **Isabella Olive Halsall**, the daughter of **Crystal and Nicholas** who bring their beloved child for baptism today.

Big sister **Katie** is also thrilled to be here today!

A Profession of Faith (to parents)

Minister: Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

Parents: **We do, by God's grace**

Minister: Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ, in your words and actions?

Parents: **We will with God's help.**

Minister: Will you join with your siblings in the faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

Parents: **We will with God's help.**

Minister: Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, will you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

Parents: **We will with God's help.**

Minister: In baptism, your daughter marks an important step in her journey of faith. Will you share your faith with her, growing with her in faith, hope, and love

Parents: **We will with God's help.**

Congregational Commitment

We have heard the wishes of **Isabella's** parents as they bring her to the font for baptism this morning.

As a congregation, we welcome all children in Jesus' name as we ourselves have been welcomed, for we all belong to one family, held within the care and love of our Creator.

Will you, the congregation of Central Saanich United Church, support this beloved child, **Isabella**, and all children you encounter with love and faithful prayer in the ways that you are able?

We will, with God's help.

As a sign of our communal faith, let us read together:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Blessing of the Water

Act of Baptism

Presentation on Behalf of the Church

Through Baptism, this wonderful child, **Isabella Olive Halsall** becomes a member of the Christian community, loved, cherished and cared for by God. We celebrate her baptism and pray that the spirit will guide her continually and that she may experience the joy and care of Christian community.

Presentation of Baptismal Certificate, Bible, and Candle

Congregational Welcome

Into the household of faith,
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.

We are children of the one God,

Mother and Father of us all.

We welcome you into the community of faith.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, keep this dear child, **Isabella**, now baptized, in your love as she grows in mind and body. Keep all those who care for her in your love as they guide her in the pathways of Christ.

Keep us also in your love that we may be faithful to you and your call to bring peace and justice to the earth. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Baptized Today



Isabella Olive Halsall

May you forever walk in the light of the Spirit's love and care!