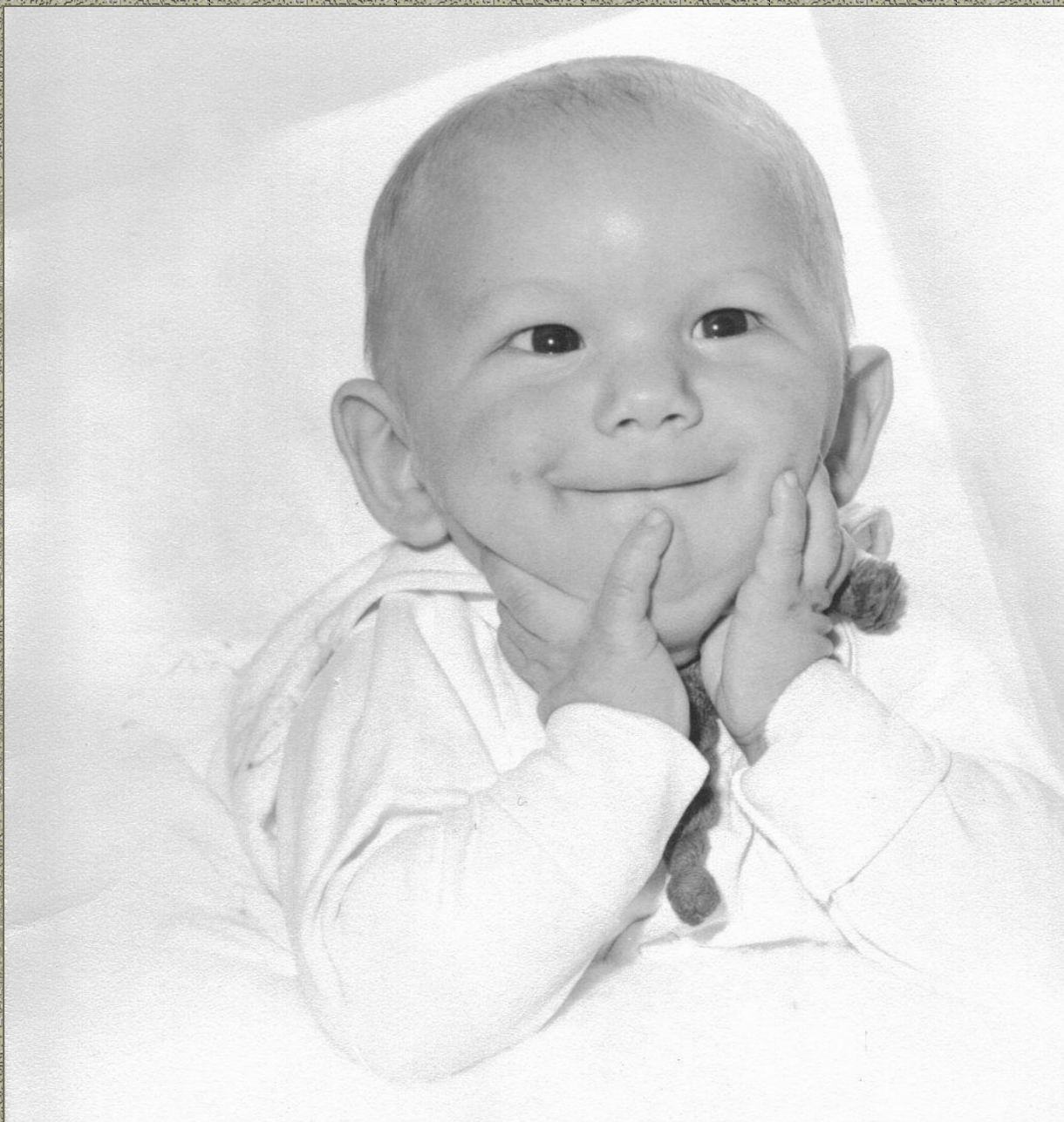


# LOOKING FORWARD to BAPTISM



At the  
**CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**  
Anglican Parish of Colwood and Langford





# BAPTISM IS . . .

- the historical way of entering the Christian faith
- the start of a way of life centered in Jesus Christ
- lived out in relationships with other Christians in a local Christian community, children and adults together



# Adults and Children

- Adults are admitted to baptism on the strength of their own repentance and faith. Children are admitted to baptism on the strength of their parents' and godparents' repentance, faith and promised support.



# THE RITE ITSELF:

Parents and sponsors,

- **I present N to receive the sacrament of baptism.**

The celebrant asks the parents and sponsors,

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

Parents and sponsors,

- **I will, with God's help.**



# A Significant Undertaking

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help  
this child to grow into the full stature of  
Christ?

Parents and sponsors,

■ **I will, with God's help.**



# Dr. John Westerhoff

- The American Theologian, Dr. John Westerhoff poses the question “will our children have faith?” The answer is quite simple, yes they will—if parents and sponsors attend to the nurture of their own faith and share with those younger than themselves.






# BAPTISM IS . . .

- not something “done once” but an orientation and challenge to a new way of holy living. It is not to be lightly undertaken or under duress.
- a richly symbolic sacrament with roots in our Jewish heritage, and links to the rites of most ancient peoples. Christian baptism is the means by which we become members of the Body of Christ.



# THE RITE ITSELF

- includes specific commitments which are spoken on the day of baptism but must be lived out each and every day
- These commitments include:



Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?


■ Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

■ Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

■ Answer **I renounce them.**



Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

■ Answer **I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

■ Answer **I do.**

Question Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

■ Answer **I do.**



# WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

In Baptism, a person is sacramentally set apart to God. Persons are

- washed by water and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16-16);
- made God's heir by adoption and grace (Romans 6:1-14, 8:12-17);
- born again into the Kingdom of God (John 3:1-8);
- set on the path of Christian pilgrimage, which extends beyond human life into eternity (Revelation 7:9-17).





# WHAT DOES THE CHURCH EXPECT

- At the Church of the Advent, we understand Baptism as being the entry into the Christian community. When parents wish to have their child baptized into this Christian community, they are proclaiming that they want to have their child belong and participate in the life of this community.





## FIVE HOLY HABITS of successful parents of **Faith-Filled Children (FFC)**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

■ People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

■ People **I will, with God's help.**



Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

■ People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

■ People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

■ People **I will, with God's help.**



# GODPARENTS/SPONSORS?

- Godparents or sponsors are baptized adult members of any Christian Church who present the candidates for baptism, and thereby enter into a special relationship with them, and who offer prayer and support for their life in Christ. Sponsors should not be chosen simply because they are relatives or friends. Any person, however, may be invited to stand with parents and godparents as a witness before God to the vows being made. Parents, may, if they desire, be the only sponsors.





# THE POINT OF IT ALL ...

Heavenly Father, We thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**