**Baptism Service for Infant or Child with Disability**

**Samuel (JungSeong) Kim**

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: God said to Abram: “I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”  —from Genesis 17:3, 7, NRSV

Song of Praise: “When you, O Lord, were baptized” (LUYH 112)

 When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,

 The worship of the Trinity was made manifest.

 For the voice of the Father bore witness unto you,

 Calling you the beloved Son.

 And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed his world as sure and steadfast.

 O Christ, our God – who has appeared and enlightened the world

 Glory be to you.

Opening Prayer

 Let us pray. (Pause briefly.)

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ’s rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. **Amen.**

God’s greeting

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.
—Zephaniah 3:17, NIV

Scripture: John 1:12-13

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

Message: become children of God

Preparation

 I will establish my covenant between me and you,

 and your offspring after you throughout their generations,

 for an everlasting covenant,

 to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Genesis 17:7

The minister continues:

Baptism is the sign and seal of God’s promises to this covenant people.

In baptism God promises by grace alone:

to forgive our sins;

to adopt us into the Body of Christ, the Church;

to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us;

and to resurrect us to eternal life.

This promise is made visible in the water of baptism.

Water is poured into the font at this time.

Water cleanses; purifies; refreshes; sustains:

Jesus Christ is living water.

Through baptism Christ calls us to new obedience:

to love and trust God completely;

to forsake the evil of the world; and

to live a new and holy life.

Yet, when we fall into sin, we must not despair of God’s mercy,

nor continue in sin, for baptism is the sign and seal

of God’s eternal covenant of grace with us.

Presentation

Pastor: Having heard God’s gracious promises to us in Christ, do you desire that [*name*] be baptized?

Parents: **We/I do.**

Pastor: In presenting your child for baptism, you announce your love for Jesus Christ, your eagerness to participate in the life of Christ’s body, the church, and your commitment to live as Christ’s disciples in the world. With joy, we celebrate together the gift of God’s grace in Christ.

Pastor: Since you are presenting these children with disability for baptism, we ask you, before God and his people, to reject sin and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ.

(The congregation and parents of children (infants) with disabilities join in affirming the faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed. The questions may be omitted.)

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Parents: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**
 **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit**
 **and born of the virgin Mary.**
 **He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
 **was crucified, died, and was buried;**
 **he descended to hell.**
 **The third day he rose again from the dead.**
 **He ascended to heaven**
 **and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**
 **From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Parents: 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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

 We give you thanks, O holy and gracious God,

 for the gift of water.

 In the beginning of creation your Spirit moved over the waters.

 In the waters of the flood you destroyed evil.

 You led the children of Israel through the sea

 into the freedom of the promised land.

 In the river Jordan, John baptized our Lord

 and your Spirit anointed him.

 By his death and resurrection Jesus Christ, the living water,

 frees us from sin and death and opens the way to life everlasting.

 We thank you, O God, for the gift of baptism.

 In this water you confirm to us

 that we are buried with Christ in his death,

 raised to share in his resurrection,

 and are being renewed by the Holy Spirit.

 Pour out on us your Holy Spirit,

 so that those here baptized may be washed clean and receive new life.

 To you be all honor and glory, dominion and power,

 now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

(The baptismal covenant shall be repeated for each person receiving baptism.

At the baptism of children, the pastor may ask the parents of each child with disability)

Pastor: What is the name of this child?

(The parents shall give the Christian name. The minister may hold infants or small children, addressing each:)

Pastor: (Name of child)

For you Jesus Christ came into the world;

for you he died; and for you he conquered death.

All this he did for you, little one,

though you know nothing of it as yet.

We love because God first loved us.

(The minister shall either immerse or pour or sprinkle water visibly and generously at the declaration of each name of each person of the Trinity, saying:)

Pastor: (Name of child)

 I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The minister may place a hand on the person’s head and may mark on the forehead the sign of the cross, saying to each:)

Pastor: (Name) child of the covenant

in baptism, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit

and marked as Christ’s own forever. **Amen.**

DECLARATION, BLESSING, AND WELCOME

(When all have been baptized, the minister may make the following declaration)

Pastor: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the only King and Head of the church,

this child/these children of God is/are now

received into the visible membership of CRC church,

engaged to confess the faith of Christ, and

to be God’s faithful servant(s) until life’s end

The minister shall offer the following prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

we thank you that you cleanse and renew

these your children through your grace alone.

Bless and strengthen them daily

with the gift of your Holy Spirit;

unfold to them the riches of your love,

deepening their faith,

keeping them from the power of evil,

and enabling them to live a holy and blameless life

until your kingdom comes.

At the baptism of children:

Look with kindness upon these parents.

Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them.

Grant them the presence of your Holy Spirit,

that they may bring up these children

to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Amen.

The congregation shall stand.

Welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ.

Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news,

for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia.

(The following blessing may be said or sung by the congregation while the

elders may greet the baptismal group:)

Pastor: O Lord, uphold [*name*] by your Holy Spirit. Give him/her the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

**Words of Encouragement and Promise**

Pastor: On the strength of God’s gracious love for us, and in solidarity with this Christian congregation, do you promise to instruct [*these children*] by word and example, with the help of the Christian community, in the truth of God’s Word, and in the way of salvation through Jesus Christ? Do you promise to pray for [*them*] and teach [*them*] to pray? Do you promise to nurture [*them*] within the body of believers as citizens of Christ’s kingdom?

All: **We/I do, God helping us/me.**

**Intercessory Prayer**

Pastor: (prayer for parents of newly baptized children or infant with disability)

Gracious God, giver of all life, we pray for [*name(s)*]. Give [*them*] wisdom and patience to guide [*their children*] in the way of Jesus Christ and the faith of the church. Let your peace and joy dwell in [*their*] home, that [*their*] family life may be instructed by faith, sustained by prayer, and governed by love. Strengthen [*them*] in [*their*] own baptism, that [*they*] may rejoice as [*children*] of God, and serve you faithfully, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Benediction (Blessing)**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you,

and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,

and give you peace. Amen.

 Numbers 6:24-26

Go in peace