

# The Sacrament of Baptism



## ***Statement of Purpose***

I welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ to this celebration of God's love and grace called Baptism. In Baptism the water is a visible sign of God's invisible grace: a grace that was with these children while they were being created in their mother's womb, a grace that will be with them throughout their life, a grace that they will learn to trust.

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. Baptism is an act of naming and knowing one's identity as a child of God within the Christian community and individually before God.

## ***Presentation of Candidate*** Nancy Kerswill

On behalf of the congregation of Aurora United Church, I present **Landon Brian King Whitelaw** for initiation into the family of Christ through baptism. Landon is the first child for Kendall and Nicholas Whitelaw and first grandchild in both families. He is a happy baby who loves to smile.

## ***Questions for Parents***

*Kendall and Nicolos, 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? **I do, by the grace of God.***

*Will you join together with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, and work and minister to a world in need of God's love?*

**I will, God being my helper.**

*Will you also grow together with your child and offer to teach her/him the Christian faith, and help her/him to take their place in the Christian family?*

**I will, God being my helper.**

## ***The Congregation Makes a Promise:*** Nancy Kerswill

Let us pledge to these families, our support and care.

**As a church following in the way of Jesus, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within this community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.**

## ***The Blessing of the Baptism Water***

The water we use in baptism is a symbol of the grace of God—free-flowing, awakening, refreshing, renewing. It is a symbol of the unconditional love that names us and claims us as God's own. It also is a symbol of the faith that we share in common, as people of Christ.

***Let us pray: Loving God, bless now this water that we will use in baptism. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for Landon but also for all who have passed through the waters of baptism. In the spirit of Christ, whom was himself baptized, we pray. Amen.***

## ***The Baptism*** (What is the name of this child?)

***Landon Brian King, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

*With the sign and the seal of the cross I claim you as Christ's and pray that you will remain His forever. **Amen.***

***Landon Brian King, may the blessing of the one God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always. Amen.***

## ***Presentation of Certificate and Cross Candle Lighting***

### ***Sung Blessing*** (MV 214)

**May God's sheltering wings, God's gathering wings protect you. May God's nurturing arms, God's cradling arms sustain you, and hold you in God's love, and hold you in God's love.**