

The Sacrament of Baptism



Presentation of Candidate Debra Hilliard

On behalf of the congregation of Aurora United Church, I present **Gemma Summer Ritchie** for initiation into the family of Christ through baptism. Gemma is the first child of Casey and Spenser Ritchie and first grandchild for both families. She is also a soon to be big sister to her twin siblings. She is a bubbly, happy baby who loves to give hugs and blow kisses. Gemma is a ray of sunshine in her family and brings them so much joy and happiness.

Questions for Parents

Casey and Spenser, 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? We 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?

We will, God being our helper.

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

We will, God being our helper.

Questions for Godparents

Olivia and Ethan, will you support this child as she grows in faith, and encourage her reflection of God's image? Will you pray for Gemma and be a Christian presence in her life, so that she may learn and live the faith?

We will, God being our helper.

The Congregation Makes a Promise: Debra Hilliard

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 Gemma but also for all who have passed through the waters of baptism. In the spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized, we pray. Amen.

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

Gemma Summer Ritchie, I baptize you in the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Gemma Summer Ritchie, 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.