

Profession of Faith:

Today we have the opportunity to witness the profession of faith of Adam and Toni Both, and Arjan and Amanda DeJong, and the baptism of Amy DeJong. When Adam, Toni, Arjan, and Amanda were baptised, God made clear his claim on them as his own, and they were received in the church. Today they will publicly accept and confirm what was sealed in their baptism; confessing their faith in Jesus, and accepting the rights and responsibilities that come with being a member of this particular body of believers.

(The following is On Power Point)

Prayer of Preparation

As we prepare to welcome them into the community of believers through profession of faith and the sacrament of baptism, we are also called to remember our own baptism.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives. As Paul wrote to the Romans: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:3–4, NIV)

In Baptism, God brings us into his family and calls us His own.

Through Baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, life, forgiveness, and strength and asks us to respond in faithfulness to him and in service to others.

In baptism we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, marked as Christ's own, and called to follow him.

This is all based only on what Christ has done for us.

In response to God claiming us as his own in baptism, we give ourselves to Christ in trust, love, and obedience.

These promises, these truths,
are 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.

**God, stir up in us again the gift of your Holy Spirit:
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.**

(The following is NOT on Power Point)

The vows

Profession of Faith

Amanda, Arjan, Toni, and Adam, will you stand now, and in the presence of God and his people respond to the following questions:

- 1) Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to redeem the world, do you love and trust him as the one who saves you from your sin, and do you with joy and repentance embrace him as Lord of your life?
- 2) Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, revealing Christ and his redemption, and that the confession of this church faithfully reflect this revelation?
- 3) Do you accept the gracious promises of God sealed to you in your baptism and do you affirm your union with Christ and his church which your baptism signifies?
- 4) Do you promise to do all you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen your love and commitment to Christ by sharing faithfully in the life of the church, honouring and submitting to its authority; and do you join with the people of God in doing the work of the Lord everywhere?

Answer: (each respond) ***I do.***

(The following is On Power Point)

The Reception:

In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, I now welcome you to full participation in the life of this church. I welcome you to its joys, its responsibilities, and its sufferings.

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Congregation:

We thank God that he has made you a part of our community, and we promise you our love, encouragement, and prayers.

Testimonies of New Members

Song: May the Peace of Christ be With You

Baptism:

The Institution:

In baptism God seals the promises he gave when he made his covenant with us, calling us and our children to put our trust for life and death in Christ our Saviour, deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him in obedience and love.

God graciously includes our children in this covenant, and all his promises are for them as well as for us. (Gen 17:7, Acts 2:39). Jesus himself embraced little children and blessed them (Mark 10:16), and the apostle Paul said that children of believers are holy (1 Cor. 7:14). So just as the children of the old covenant received the sign of circumcision, our children are given the sign of baptism. We are therefore always to teach our little ones that they have been set apart by baptism as God's own children.

Because of God's faithfulness we can trust God will keep his promises to us and this child.

As this child grows up in Christ, we anticipate the day when Amy will respond to Christ in personal faith and commitment.

(The following is NOT on Power Point)

Vows

Amanda and Arjan, since you have presented this child for baptism, we ask that you would please rise and answer the following questions before God and his people.

- 1) Do you promise to instruct this child 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?
- 2) Do you promise to pray for her and teach her to pray?
- 3) Do you promise to nurture her within the body of believers, as a citizen of Christ's kingdom?

Parents respond: ***We do, God helping us.***

(The following is On Power Point)

[Congregation]

People of God gathered as a part of Woody Nook CRC, do you promise to receive Amy into your fellowship as a member of the body of Christ, and do you promise to encourage her in the Christian faith and help her do the work of the Lord?

We do, God helping us.

"Our Lord said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Mark 10:14).

(The following is NOT on Power Point)

Administration of the Sacrament

Amy Antonette DeJong, I baptize you, in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

It was for you that Jesus Christ died and rose. In baptism you are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's child forever. *blessing*

Presentation to the congregation.

Song: God Claims You

(The following is On Power Point)

Communion:

Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Christ, we welcome you. Your broken body speaks to us of your vulnerable and tender love. Through your brokenness you bring healing. So, as you have welcomed us in our brokenness, may we welcome others in theirs.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Christ, we welcome you. Your cup speaks a better word than the violence and pay back mentality of our world. Through saying no to aggression, you have brought peace. As you have forgiven us, may we forgive others.

Let us proclaim the Great mystery of faith together:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Amen.

Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking we may be made into a living temple and be made one with Christ and one another.

These are God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

This table is made ready for those who love him
and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

You who have been here often and you who have not been here long,

You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Take, eat and drink, remember and believe: the body and blood of Christ given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins and the healing of the world.

(partake of the elements)

Song: How Great Thou Art