
A Liturgy for the

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL CALLING

This leaflet includes a simple liturgy that can be used to encourage people to reaffirm their baptismal calling using the Diocese of Sheffield's *Lights for Christ* pattern of **RECEIVING**, **WALKING** in and **REFLECTING** the **Light of Christ**. It is particularly appropriate for use on occasions when people are reminded of their baptismal calling such as at Easter, Pentecost, confirmations or at the start of a new ministry or a new year.

When the liturgy is used it provides an ideal opportunity for encouraging people to consider a personal rule of life that picks up the three themes. Supporting resources including **this document can be downloaded** from the *Lights for Christ* website...

www.lightsforchrist.org.uk/ruleoflife

Copies of *'Introduction to a Personal Rule of Life'* and the accompanying *Commitment Card* are also available from Diocesan Church House.

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If it hasn't already been done, a large candle may be lit.

In baptism Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light so that we may shine as lights for Christ in the world today.

Brothers and sisters,

Will you continue to receive the light of Christ and grow into friendship with him as he comes to you in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in prayer, and in the fellowship of his Church?

With the help of God, we will

Will you continue to walk in the light of Christ, seeking to follow him at home and at work, in rest and in activity?

With the help of God, we will

Will you continue to reflect the light of Christ to those around you by serving those in need, making him known in your communities, and working for justice, peace and the good of all creation?

With the help of God, we will

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

We will shine as lights for Christ in the world to the glory of God the Father.

May God, who in baptism has enlightened you with his grace, continually stir up his gifts within you.

NOTES

1 Please use this liturgy creatively. Occasions when it might be used include Easter, Pentecost, the start of a new year, term or ministry, confirmation services or perhaps at the licensing of a mission area.

2 This form can be used as a corporate affirmation within a service. It could be used immediately before The Peace, following the Affirmation of Faith*, or it may alternatively be placed at the end of the service – before the final Blessing – as part of the Sending Out.

*The Profession of Faith Common Worship p150 would be more appropriate than the Nicene Creed.

3 Where it is customary for the assembly to be sprinkled with water from the font or to sign themselves with water from the font, this may take place immediately after the Profession of Faith or during a hymn, canticle or song at the conclusion of this form.

4 If baptisms are taking place in the service, it may be appropriate to include the Reaffirmation either after the Baptism and before the Welcome or at the end of the service before the Sending Out.

5 Members of the congregation could be given a candle that has been lit from the Easter candle – these could be lit during a hymn immediately prior to the Reaffirmation.

6 The Reaffirmation of Baptismal Calling is an opportunity to introduce the Personal Rule of Life and encourage people to use it to make their response more specific. Please consider referring to the Personal Rule of Life during the introduction to the service and at the point when the reaffirmation is about to happen/conclude. The 'Introduction to a Personal Rule of Life' and accompanying Personal Rule of Life Commitment cards could also be given out.

Sample Service Template

Opening Words

Collect

Gloria

Readings/Sermon

Intercessions

Profession of faith

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Peace

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Sending Out

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The Blessing

** Reaffirmation can take place here, with sprinkling from font*

*** Reaffirmation alternatively happens here, especially if baptisms have been included*

Candles may be used and lit at the appropriate point (perhaps during a hymn) to remind all of their call to carry the light of Christ into the world.