



HOLY BAPTISM AT EMMANUEL

'God-is-with-us'

BAPTISM AT EMMANUEL

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these children and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God we will.

from the Common Worship Baptism Service

At Emmanuel we gladly baptise new members into the family of God, praying for them as they embark on their exciting journey of faith.

Why Baptism?

Baptism is one of the principal sacraments of the Church and by it we become a member of Christ's body, the Church, throughout the world. In baptism the decision is made to follow Christ and reject evil. For those unable to answer for themselves these promises are made on their behalf by their parents and godparents.

Into the Body of Christ?

At Emmanuel baptisms take place in the main Sunday Eucharist, usually on the second Sunday of the month. Baptism takes place within the main service because all those present represent the wider body of God's family throughout the world and down the ages, as they joyfully welcome a new member into this church community.

Since baptism is about joining that wider family of the Church we do ask that you attend the main Sunday service for a couple of months before the Baptism. It is our aspiration that Emmanuel is a warm, welcoming and inclusive community and children are especially welcome at all our services. During the main Sunday Eucharist in term time there is a thriving Sunday School and Crèche.

Who can be baptised?

Baptism is open to everyone not previously baptised. Normally you should live within the parish of Emmanuel, although if you are a regular worshipper here but living outside the parish this may also be possible after talking to Fr Jonathan.

How do I arrange a baptism at Emmanuel?

You should first speak to Fr Jonathan or one of the other clergy who will give you a baptism application form and invite you to one of our regular informal baptism preparation sessions in the Vicarage.

Adults considering baptism for themselves are also encouraged to consider confirmation at the same time. Our annual confirmation service at Emmanuel is usually during the season of Advent towards the end of the year and conducted by our Area Bishop. Sometimes parents of children being baptised have been baptised themselves but never confirmed. We would be delighted to discuss this further with you if you are interested.

Godparents – who and how many?

There are normally three godparents – two of the same gender as the child and one of the opposite. All godparents should themselves be baptised as they seek to support and encourage the child in the faith and make the promises on their behalf.

How does the Service work?

Baptisms take place after the sermon during the main Sunday Eucharist when those to be baptised, together with their parents, godparents, family and friends gather round the font. The font is deliberately situated near the main door of the Church, signifying our entry into the family of the Church.

Parents and Godparents make promises on behalf of the child, and the whole congregation also celebrates their own baptismal faith and their desire to welcome a new member into the family of the Church.

The priest then blesses the water in the font before baptising the child/candidate 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.

Special oils are used during the baptism, which have been blessed by the Bishop of London in St Paul's Cathedral during a special service on Maundy Thursday just before Easter each year called the Chrism Eucharist. This reminds us that we are part of the wider church family. A small amount of the oil of catechumens is used earlier in the service, signifying the beginning of a journey or pilgrimage of faith. The oil of chrism is used straight after the baptism, signifying how special we are in the sight of God. Just as monarchs were anointed with oil in the Old Testament so are all people

anointed in the Christian tradition to show that we are special and called to continue in the prophetic, priestly and royal ministry of Jesus Christ.

A candle is given, lit from the large Paschal (Easter) Candle, calling to mind Christ's rising from the dead and reminding us that we are to shine like lights in the world, just as Jesus commanded us to do.

The service continues with the welcome and the sharing of the peace, symbolising the mutual love and fellowship which should be the hallmark of any Christian community. The focus of the service then moves to the altar where we share in the special meal of the family of God, before we are sent out to show God's inclusive love and light to the world.

How much will it cost?

Jesus tells us that our discipleship will cost everything and every aspect of our being – but in monetary terms the baptism is free and will cost nothing! There will however be the opportunity to make a donation to the life and work of the Church during the service.

What do I do now?

If you have any further questions please do feel free to speak to one of the clergy. We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child as members of the family of God at Emmanuel.

Emmanuel Church
Lyncroft Gardens
London NW6 1JU

www.emmanuelnw6.com

020 7435 1911 info@emmanuelnw6.com

