**Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and Holy God,

we bless you for the gift of life,

and, within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,

in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

**The Act of Baptism:**

**Baptism in the Name of the Triune God**

**Blessing**

**Marking with the Sign of the Cross**

**Laying On of Hands**

**Lighting of a Candle**

**Clothing in a New Garment or Baptismal Stole**

**Declaration and Congregational Welcome**

Into the household of faith,

we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**We are members of the Body of Christ.**

**We are inheritors of God’s promise.**

**In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

**Blessing (The Lord Bless you and Keep You)**

**The Celebration of Baptism**

**Statement of Purpose**

Baptism celebrates God’s initiative and our response. It is God’s “Yes” to us, and our “Yes” to God. It is a sign of the Divine-human covenant. Baptism flows from God’s unmerited grace and pours out in lives of gratitude and commitment. As initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ, it is an act of welcoming, blessing, and belonging.

The covenant of baptism celebrates the fullness of God’s grace throughout the story of salvation: in creation and in exodus, in wilderness and in exile, in birth and in death. In his baptism, Jesus received the Holy Spirit and was declared God’s beloved, he opened himself to repentance and forgiveness, and marked a new beginning in his ministry. In our baptism we are similarly claimed, called, and commissioned.

Our baptismal identity is both individual and communal. Baptism honours the diversity of individuals and challenges us to be a community of equals.

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ*

*have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

*There is no longer Jew or Greek,*

*there is no longer slave or free,*

*there is no longer male and female;*

*for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

*Galatians 3:27-28 NRSV*

**Presentation of the Child to be baptized**

Sisters and Brothers,

let us celebrate God’s gift of grace

given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

**There is one body**

**and one Spirit;**

**we have one hope in Christ.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God, Creator of us all.

**Out of the water of baptism**

**we rise with new life,**

**forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ,**

**members of Christ’s body.**

*Ephesians 4:4-6*

On behalf of the congregation of the Vienna Community Church, I present the following person for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

Bleuenn James Kristine Kiss

**Profession of Faith and Promises**

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 follow in the way of Jesus Christ,

resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice,

and witnessing to God’s love for all creation?

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

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

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

Will you join

with your brothers and sisters in this congregation

to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ?

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

**Questions of the Parents**

\* In baptism, Bleuenn marks an important step

in her journey of faith.

Will you care for her,

and help her to take her place

within the mission and witness of Christ’s Church?

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

**Questions of the Godparents**

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support this child and her parents as they grow in faith?

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

**Congregational Commitment**

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people,**

**we commit ourselves to support and uphold you**

**within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

**Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith The Apostle’s Creed**