

Naming Rite



Presentation

This rite is based on Nadia Bolz Webers Naming Liturgy and additions by Leo Bancroft. It is meant to be a collaboration between the person being named and those involved in the rite. Questions about when and where to use old and new names should be discussed along with any other concerns or modifications. Adjustments can be made as necessary.

While sponsors are not necessary they are meant to be specific individuals who are there to support and uplift the candidate on the day of the rite and in their ongoing life in Christ.

Candidate who is being named along with sponsor/s gather with the minister by the baptismal font

The presiding minister addresses the candidate.

Holy One of Blessing, in baptism you bring us to new life in Jesus Christ and you name us Beloved. We give you thanks for the renewal of that life and love in name, who now takes on a new name. Strengthen and uphold them as they grow in power, and authority, and meaning of this name: we pray in the Name above names, Jesus, your Son, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, the Triune God, we adore. **Amen**

The assisting minister reads.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

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 nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Laying on of Hands

The candidate faces the presiding minister and the presiding minister lays hands upon their head. The presiding minister says the below prayer.

We pray for your servant name, with thanks for the journey and awakening that has brought them to this moment, for their place amongst your people, and for their gifts and calling to serve you.

O God, in renaming your servants Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Peter, and Paul, you gave them new lives and new tasks, new love and new hope. We now hold before you our companion. Bless them with a new measure of grace as they take this new name. Write them again in your heart and on your palm. And grant that we all be worthy to call ourselves Christians, for the sake of your Christ whose name is Love, and in whom, with you and the Spirit, we pray. **Amen**

The Giving of the Name

The presiding minister addresses the candidate

By what name shall you be known?

The candidate responds.

My name is / shall be new name.

The presiding minister addresses the sponsor/s

By what name shall they be known?

The sponsor/s respond/s.

Their name is / shall be new name.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly

By what name shall they be know?

The community responds.

Your name is new name.

The presiding minister continues addressing the assembly.

People of God, will you lift up new name in prayer, support new name in this identity and affirm their goodness and beauty as a child of God? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help and guide us."

The presiding minister addresses the candidate.

new name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Bear your new name in the Name of Christ. Share it in the name of mercy. Offer it in the name of justice. Christ is among us making peace right here right now. And let the people say, "Amen."

Amen

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

