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What Does the Service Look Like?

(This can take place in the Church and include the Rehearsal)

THE BAPTISM SERVICE

1) The Service

- The Greeting: a welcome into the whole world-wide "Church of God" – across space and time
- * The Introduction: it's all about what Jesus has done for us
- * Support for the child: This includes family members, godparents, and the local church community.

2) The Renunciation

- The Renunciation: a rejection of all that leads us away from God's love
 - * All sin is serious
 - * Things either lead us to Jesus or they get in the way
 - * Things that get in the way of Jesus often look attractive
 - * We vow to walk away from these things
 - * This is a turning from death to life
- The Devil etc.: we aren't dealing with ghost stories. There are spiritual forces that seek our harm and destruction. It is simply good sense to avoid them.

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* Evil Powers: are a reality; we see Notes their terrible results on TV. in newspapers, and all around us * God's nature is to bless & create; evil powers curse & ruin * Sinful Desires: replace a trust in Jesus with trust in anything else * **Renouncing:** it isn't just a rule; it's a statement of intent: we will not settle for temptations Implications: things to repent of; matters to be put right; apologies to be made so we can make these vows to God in good faith 3) The Blessing of the Water God uses ordinary water in blessing us as a reminder that God uses ordinary people; God can take any ordinary thing and make it special. God has used water in different ways to bless His people. * Without water there is no life: God provides it (through His prophet, Moses) to sustain His people in the desert * Water cleanses & refreshes us * God used water save His people from their enemies * Jesus was baptised in water & was revealed as God's Son

4) The Allegiance

- This isn't trying to persuade God to bless our child!
- * It's the <u>centre</u> of our life & we want our children to be part of it
- Parents can only share a bond with God that they also have
 - it includes openness, honesty, integrity, transparency, knowledge of God, love & grace
 - * it isn't accidental; it takes hard work, focus, & humility
- The Father can be trusted & loved because He is true
- The Son can be trusted & loved because He gave His life for us
- The Holy Spirit can be trusted & loved as He gives us power to live a Christian life
- This is the foundation of the faith of all believers

5) The Baptism

* In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It's a matter of ownership.

"God as Community in unity"

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 The cross was a sign of shame; to Christians it's the sign of victory 	Notes
It cost Jesus His life	
Faithfulness may cost us also	
 The candle tells us that Jesus is the Light of the world and our Light. 	
 The Light of Christ should become visible through us 	
The forces of darkness can't put out Christ's light	
 The Welcome is on the basis of baptism into a community of God All the baptised are part of one family 	
6) And So?	
* This is the cost of baptism	
to you	
* Is this what you want?	
Are you prepared to	
commit yourself to this?	