

## **Reaffirmation of Baptism for Worship 7/10/16**

*Used in worship, at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church St. Louis, MO. Written by the Rev. Erin Counihan)*

*(After the sermon, then the moment of meditation, then this, before the affirmation:)*

Alan: When the water was poured out for you, *(pouring the water in the font)*

Erin: when it was dribbled, dripped, or doused atop your head.

Alan: When you were dipped or dunked.

Erin: Whether you were a nervous teenager, a confident adult, or too young to remember,

Alan: God Almighty, the God of Love and Light, our God of Hope and Life, looked upon you,

Erin: Our God looked upon you and claimed you for a bold way of life.

Alan: God named you special and precious and beloved.

Erin: And that God said,

Alan and Erin: love me and love each other.

Erin Not in the easy, Kumbaya, "can't we all just get along" way of love. But in the follow me into the Way of Blood,

Alan: the way the cross,

Erin: the way of the resurrection- kind of love.

Alan: This is an important time for people of faith to remember that kind of love.

Erin: And to go into the world, loving boldly, and deeply, and through divisions and debates,

Alan: through disagreements and distractions,

Erin: and claiming the love that claimed us in the waters of our baptism.

Alan: Let us stand in body or in spirit and together read our affirmation of faith.

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

*(Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)*

Erin: Remaining standing, and remembering your baptism, hear now and answer these questions again:

Alan: Do you reject sin? If so, say, "I do." **I do.**

Erin: Do you reject evil? If so, say, "I do." **I do.**

Alan: Do you reject evil's power in the world? If so, say, "I do." **I do.**

Erin: Do you turn to Jesus Christ? If so, say, "I do." **I do.**

Alan: Do you accept Jesus as your lord and savior? If so, say, "I do." **I do.**

Erin: And will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life's end? If so, say, "I will." **I will.**

Alan: Then, friends, with this water today, remembering the holy water of our baptism, we give thanks to God- God the Creator, God the Christ, and God the Spirit- who was and is and forever will be at work in this world and in each of these believers gathered today.

Erin: We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism, and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

*(Splashing the water around, making the sign of the cross over the room, in all different directions, and generally creating a big watery mess of that awesome water of life.)*

Erin: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

Alan: You are named and claimed by a God of love who conquers death.

Erin: You are loved by God and you are sent to be God's love in the world.

*(As we start singing the hymn that follows, Erin will invite any who want to come forward and dip their hands, splash around and join the wonderful, holy mess of this life of love.)*

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