



HOPE CHURCH

Statement on Baptism

Biblical Foundation

Baptism is a sacrament instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, signifying God's covenant promise, the washing away of sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and incorporation into the body of Christ. It is an act of obedience to Christ's command (Matthew 28:19-20) and a public declaration of repentance and faith in Him. Baptism reflects both God's gracious work and the believer's response, serving as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace.

Nature and Meaning

We affirm that baptism has three inseparable dimensions:

- **Divine** – God's action in forgiving sin, granting the Holy Spirit, and sealing the covenant promise.
- **Personal** – The individual's repentance, faith, and commitment to follow Jesus.
- **Communal** – The church's role in welcoming the baptized into the fellowship of believers.

These elements are equally important, and no one aspect should be elevated above the others.

Practice

Our church recognizes and affirms both **infant baptism (paedobaptism)** and **believer's baptism (credobaptism)** as equally valid expressions of the sacrament. We believe that God is the primary actor in baptism and that His covenantal work is practical regardless of the age at which baptism occurs. Accordingly:

- Baptisms administered in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whether in infancy or upon personal profession of faith, shall be recognized without prejudice.
- We do not require re-baptism for those previously baptized in another Christian tradition that affirms the Triune God.
- Opportunities for **affirmation of baptism** or public reaffirmation of faith will be provided for those wishing to renew their covenant commitment without undergoing a second baptism.

Unity in Diversity

We acknowledge the diversity of theological backgrounds within our congregation and view this as a strength. While differences in baptismal practice exist among Christian traditions, our commitment is to maintain unity in Christ and to hold baptism as a unifying, rather than divisive, act. Our practice seeks to reflect the central truth that baptism is God's gracious work, drawing His people into a covenant relationship with Himself and into the fellowship of the church.