**Remembrance of Baptism** (liturgy by Rev. M Barclay, enfleshed, adapted)

Beloveds in Christ,

Through the waters of baptism,

We are brought into the family of God.

In this family,

some are queer and some are straight,

some are old and some are young,

Some are from here and some are from away,

But all belong.

The body of Christ is rich in Divine creativity,

a community of people of many genders and races, body types and sizes, abilities and hungers,

each a glimpse of God from a different angle.

**God claims each of us with delight.**

**And we claim one another as companions in faith.**

In our baptismal vows, we promise to love and support each other, working together to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all its forms – within us and around us. We proclaim commitment to the way of Jesus and seek to live his way in the world.

**We need each other in this shared work of embodying the dreams of God.**

Today, we remember that the love we encounter through these waters cannot be undermined by bigotry or hate, by exclusion or injustice.

**We are children of the Holy One, Siblings in the life of God.**

These family ties cannot be broken.

No one and nothing has the power to turn us away from our Creator. We cannot be kicked out, or accepted only in part.

**The full embrace of God always extends to us.**

And so today, as we remember our baptism,

we also remember that through this new life in Christ we are set free:

To love wildly. To live with Pride in who we are and what God has seen us through. And to claim the power God has given us to turn from everything that destroys.

**Through God’s grace,**

**We leave shame behind**

**And rejoice in the Good News**

**That sets the captives free.**

Let us pray together.

God of Life and God of Love, through this gift of water, you do miraculous things. The dust of past shame and guilt are washed away. The bonds of love are restored. The possibilities of new life emerge. May it be so for us today as we remember our baptisms. May your Spirit be upon this water and all who gather, as we celebrate this Sacred family to which you have called us. Strengthen us in love for one another as we renew our commitment to the pursuit of the Kindom of God, where all your creatures and creations are beloved and free. Amen.

*You are invited to come forward to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead to remember you are baptized - you are claimed and loved through the waters and the fire. As you receive the gift of water, these words will be shared: Remember you are free to love and be loved.*

**Receiving New Members**

And so now I ask you who are joining this morning -

As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness? **I will**.

Will you seek to grow in love and understanding, seeking more fully your belovedness as a child of God as well as the belovedness of others? **I will.**

Will you strive to lift and build up this congregation - in words and in actions - and seek to follow Christ through the work of this community of faith? **I will.**

To all of us gathered here, as Christ’s body, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you**

 **and we celebrate with you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you**

 **in the body of Christ and in this congregation**

**We renew our covenant faithfully to participate**

 **in the ministries of this church**

 **by our prayers, our presence,**

 **our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

**We seek again to live fully into our belovedness as**

**children of God**

 **And strive to see that belovedness in others.**

**We will build this church together as we follow Christ**

**and create a community marked by peace, hope,**

**justice, and joy. Amen.**