

Rite for welcoming the newly Confirmed, Received and Reaffirmed

It is appropriate for the new members to greet as many of the faithful as possible. Some may also read the lessons, present the Bread and Wine, and perform other liturgical functions for which they have been previously qualified. Immediately before the Peace, the persons and their sponsors are asked to come forward with the sponsors standing behind. The persons introduce themselves briefly.

Sponsors We present to you these persons who have been Confirmed, Received and Reaffirmed as baptized members of the Body of Christ and we **welcome** them to our community as they undertake a process of growth in the meaning of their baptism.

Celebrant What do you seek?
Answer Renewal of my life in Christ.

Celebrant In baptism, you died with Christ Jesus to the forces of evil and rose to new life as members of his Body. Will you study the promises made at your baptism, and strive to keep them in the fellowship of this community and the Church?
Answer I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you worship God regularly with us, to hear God's word and to celebrate the mystery of Christ's dying and rising?
Answer I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you participate in a life of service to those who are poor, outcast, or powerless?
Answer I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive to recognize the gifts that God has given you and discern how they are to be used in the building up of God's reign of peace and justice?
Answer I will, with God's help.

Celebrant (to the sponsors/companions/friends) You have been chosen by this community to serve as companions to these persons. Will you support them by prayer and example and help them to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

Sponsors We will, with God's help.

(to the congregation)

Celebrant Will you who witness this new beginning keep these persons in your prayers and help them, share with them your ministry, and encourage them in their life in Christ?

People We will, with God's help.

Celebrant Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these brothers and sisters by teaching the gospel of God's love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

Response: We will with God's help.

Those being presented remain standing. The sponsors place a hand on their shoulders.

Celebrant (extending both hands toward the baptized) Blessed are you, our God, our Maker, for you form us in your image and restore us in Jesus Christ. In baptism, we were buried with Christ and rose to new life in him. Continually renew them in your Holy Spirit, that they may grow as members of Christ. Strengthen their union with the rest of his Body as they join us in our life of praise and service; through our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Celebrant Please welcome the new members of the community.

People We recognize you as members of the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The service continues with the Peace.

(Compiled from a number of different sources by Gennie Callard, Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan)