

## A LITURGY FOR TAKING A NEW NAME

*The name used in the first part of the service can be either the person's original name or their new name, or a combination of both. As a child is called by their name before baptism, so the new name can be used before the ritual renaming.*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

We have come together in the presence of God  
to give thanks for N, for his/her faith in Christ,  
and to support him/her as s/he transitions from (fe)male to (fe)male.

When N was an infant, his/her parents brought him/her to the font for baptism.

They named their child M.

They did this with integrity.

Let us now pray for N's parents and godparents, giving thanks for their love and nurture.

*The following prayer needs several forms – for parents who aren't Christians, who have died, who are not supportive or who actively reject their son/daughter. This version assumes the best case scenario.*

Loving and merciful God,  
we thank you for N, for his/her life and faith.  
We thank you for his/her parents and godparents,  
*(insert names if appropriate)*  
for their love and nurture of N,  
and for their desire that N be brought up in the Christian faith.  
We ask you to be with them now,  
to comfort them in sorrow,  
to heal their hurt,  
and to encourage them as they seek to understand and support N  
as a transgender person.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who loved and accepted all who came to him. **Amen.**

*Readings:*

*Renaming:*

*Genesis 17: 1-5, 15-16 Renaming of Abram-Abraham and Sarai-Sarah*

*Genesis 32: 22-28 Jacob wrestles with God and is renamed Israel*

*Matthew 16: 13-18 / John 1: 35-42 Jesus renames Simon as Peter*

*Healing:*

*Mark 5: 25-34 Woman with a haemorrhage*

*John 9: 1-7, 15, 24-34 Man born blind*

*Resurrection / new life*

*Any of the resurrection appearances of Jesus*

*An explanation of transgender and transitioning may be given here.*

### *Renewal of Baptism Vows*

N, when you were a child, your parents and godparents brought you for baptism and named you before God and the Church.

As you now transition and take a new name,  
so I ask you to renew the baptism vows made then on your behalf.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

I renounce all that is evil.

Will you, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

### *Blessing of Water*

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the gift of water.

Your Holy Spirit moved over the waters in the beginning of creation.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led the children of Israel out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the River Jordan into the land of promise.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John.

Through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water, that it may be a sign of new birth in baptism.

May we die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

When Jesus was baptised, the Spirit came upon him and he heard the words of God the Father, 'You are my beloved Son. I delight in you.'

We are baptised into Christ and become his brothers and sisters as the Spirit comes on us in our baptism.

So the words of the Father are for each of us also.

*The minister uses the water to sign N with the cross on his/her forehead with these words.*

N, as one of the baptised, know that you are God's beloved child. God delights in you.

*If the person's original name has been used to this point, the new name is used here and henceforth.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you N, a member with us of the Body of Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Prayers*

*For family and friends, especially those hurt or confused*

*For N's spouse and children*

*For N – healing of past hurt, thanksgiving for life lived to this point, blessing for future*

*For all present – that they may support N (and his/her spouse, family) and one another*

*Blessing*

*Hymns can be sung at the beginning, before the renewal of vows, before the prayers, before or after the Blessing.*

*Possible hymns:*

*Here in this place new light is streaming*

*Comfort comfort all my people*

*This day God gives me*

*God gives us a future*

*Guide me o my great Redeemer*

*Joyful joyful we adore you*

*Take my life and let it be*

*Help us accept each other*

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