

## EQUINOX LITURGY: BAPTISM WITH WATER

*P: Jesus has said:*

*Unless one be born [anew] of water and of the Spirit,  
one cannot enter into the kingdom of God.  
That which is born of the flesh is flesh,  
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.  
The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it,  
but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes;  
so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.*

*P: Let us pray:*

**C: When we are born of the Spirit,  
Our hearts and minds open,  
And we see the world anew.**

**We affirm that:**

**Our children are not our children.  
They are sons and daughters of the Father.  
They come through us, but not from us,  
And they are with us, yet they belong not to us.**

**We may give them our love, but not our thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
We may house their bodies, but not their souls,  
For their souls are like the wind, we do not know  
whence they come or whither they go.**

**We may strive to be like them,  
but seek not to make them like us.<sup>i</sup>**

*P: For, as Jesus said:*

*Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child  
shall not enter it.*

### OUR SAVIOUR'S PRAYER (LUKE 11:2-4)

*P: As Jesus taught us, we now pray:*

**Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins;  
for we ourselves forgive every one**

**that is indebted to us.  
And lead us not into temptation.**

*P: Since, in Christian love, you present this Child for Holy Baptism,  
you are responsible for teaching her the new covenant in Christ:*

*The first commandment is:*

*Hear, O Child:*

*The Lord our God, the Lord is one;  
and you shall love God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.*

*The second commandment is:*

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

*P: Do you accept this responsibility to teach her the new covenant in Christ?*

**Parents and Sponsors: We do.**

*P: Will you forever remind her to be thankful?*

**Parents and Sponsors: We will.**

*P: Will you forever encourage her to be in a generous mood?*

**Parents and Sponsors: We will.**

*P: Will you forever teach her the practice of kindness, compassion, and  
understanding?*

**Parents and Sponsors: We will.**

*P: As witnesses to this day we are born anew!*

*P: \_\_\_\_\_,  
I baptize you  
in the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*To the congregation:*

*P: Do you promise to pray for and support \_\_\_\_\_, his/her parents  
and sponsors on their journey in the Kingdom of God?*

**C: We welcome you into the new covenant, the one body of Christ, and  
promise to support you with our prayers and actions.**

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<sup>i</sup> Adaptation of "On Children" from *The Prophet*, by Kahlil Gibran.