



# First Church in Pembroke

105 Center Street, Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359

Sunday, September 10, 2023



## The Baptism of Owen Roberts Miner

We are honored to celebrate and share in the baptism of Owen Roberts Miner on this day. As you go through this week, continue to pray for the Miner Family. We should also pray as God's church, and we will always be an oasis for this family and all who need spiritual nourishment.

- P: They were bringing children to Jesus so that Jesus might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw the disciples, Jesus was indignant and said to them.
- C: Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.
- P: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them. Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make Him change His mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet You have come to me!"
- C: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So, John agreed.
- P: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on Him.
- C: Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- P: At another time, Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the Grace of God. Since the promise of the Gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

- C: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin, one in Christ, and members of Christ's body.

### The Covenant of the Parents and Godparents

- P: Christopher and Kristine, as parents of Owen, do you covenant with God, with our church, and with your family to encourage Owen to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ? Parents: We do.

Do you covenant to teach Owen ways that he would be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Parents: We do.

Christopher and Kristine, as parents, and Matthew and Rachel as Godparents of Owen, do you covenant, by the Grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and the word of Jesus Christ as best you are able. Parents & Godparents: We do.

As Owen's Parents and Godparents, do you covenant, according to the Grace given us, to grow with Owen in the Christian faith, to help him be a faithful member of the Christian Church, and nurture him in a humble walk of faith and life? Parents & Godparents: We do.

Matthew and Rachel, as Godparents, are you ready, with God's help, to guide and encourage Owen to follow the ways of Jesus Christ, by each of your counsel and example, by each of you in prayer and love? Godparents: We are.

### The Congregation's Covenant

- P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of Grace in baptism. Do you, as Owen's First Church Family, and the ones who are witnessing and celebrating this sacrament, promise, your love, your support, and care for Owen as he lives and grows in his faith and relationship with Jesus Christ?
- C: As people of faith, we promise our love, support, and care for Owen and his family.
- P: Let us all unite, as people of faith, and as one, and confess our faith in a triune God.
- C: We believe in God. We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Holy Spirit.
- P: Christ, be with you.
- C: And also, with you.
- P: Let us pray. We thank You, O God, for the gift of creation called forth by Your saving word. Before the world had shape and form, Your Spirit moved over the waters, and You formed the firmament and brought on the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, You washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and Your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, Your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters, from slavery to freedom, and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, You sent Jesus Christ, Your Only Son, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. John baptized Jesus in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

### Consecration of Water

Bless, by your Holy Spirit, Gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit, save those who confess, in the Name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power.

In Your Mercy and Grace, create a new life in Owen so that he may rise in Christ. Glory to You, eternal God, the One Who Was, and Is, and shall Always Be, world without end. Amen.

### The Act of Baptism

- P: Owen Roberts Miner, we baptize you in the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- P: Let us pray. Gracious God, You have filled the world with joy by giving us the special gift of Jesus and now the very special gift of Owen. Bless him, O God, that he may be filled with joy. May he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in You. Grant Owen, Your strength for his life's journey. Grant him the courage to sustain him in times of suffering, the joy of his faith in You, and the freedom within Your love. May the Peace and Hope of new life, found only through You and Your Son, bless us all and make us one.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the parents and family of Owen. May they ever rejoice in the gift You gave them, the gift of life through their child, Owen. Bless his family in ways that will guide Owen and walk by his side, regardless of the path, and as best they can. Bless all who will share in Owen's journey of faith and life. Bring us all to be powerful teachers and examples of Your truths.

Strengthen the Miner Family and First Church in Pembroke, O God, in our own baptism through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### A Deacon Prays:

- D: Owen Roberts Miner, may your Light shine before us and others so that all may witness your faith in action. May your relationship with Jesus Christ make a profound difference in your life, all the days of your life. Amen.
- P: May the Peace of Christ be with you and with us all.
- C: Let us all go forth from this moment, in this day, and always assured in God's love and our love for one another. Peace be with us all. Amen.

The Order of Baptism has been completed. May God's Peace be with us all.