(Lay on hands)

Mekias

We bless you in the name of God the mother,

Whose arms will hold you close,

And in the name of God the child,

Who teaches us how to love,

And in the name of God the Holy Spirit,

Whose wings will carry you to places

You can only dream of.

We mark you with the sign of the cross

So that the world will know,

And you will never forget that you

Are a beloved child of God,

Welcome, little one.

***Declaration***

Mekias has been received into the body of Christ through baptism. Please welcome him with your applause.

***Presentation of Candle and Certificate***

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism**

***Statement of Purpose***

The sacrament of Baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God given freely and without limit. In Baptism we celebrate God’s love, a love revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus; a love that ha surrounds us in our living. Upon baptism, we become members of the universal church, which we call the Holy Catholic Church.

When infants are baptized, it is the parents and caregivers that make the commitment to teach their child what it means to be part of God’s family of faith. The community of faith in which the baptism takes place also makes commitments to support and encourage not only the children but also the parents in this endeavor.

With this purpose in our hearts and minds, let us baptize this wee one.

***Presentation of the Child***

*As a member of the Westworth United Worship Team, I present Mekias Noel Barnsdale for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.*

*Invite the family and godparents forward*

***Promises of the Parents***

Do you bring Mekias to be baptized?

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating?

Do you believe in Jesus, the Word made flesh, who came to the world to reconcile and make new?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who remains in the world, teaching us what it means to be part of God’s family and household in love?

Will you do your best to teach Mekias what it means to be a person of faith by your example, your love and your teaching? Will you love them and care for them to the best of your ability and beyond, each and every day of your life?

***Congregational Question*** *(please stand)*

You have heard Mya and Yada’s responses. Turning to you now, I have a question for you and will ask you to make a promise. If, when it comes time to answer, you do not believe you can make the promise in good conscience, I ask you simply to offer a silent blessing for the family.

But, if you are ready to give an answer, I invite you to offer that answer with joy after I ask: Will you, the people of Westworth United, do everything in your power to teach Mekias what it means to be part of God’s family and household in love? Will you learn with him and from him, and will you love and care for him and his parents to the best of your ability?

 **We will with God’s help**

***The Sacrament of Baptism***

Mekias

I baptize you in the name of God the Father,

Whose arms are open wide.

And in the name of God the Son,

Who walks with you all of your days.

And in the name of God the Holy Spirit

Whose wings will keep you safe.