

On the Day of Gemma's Baptism
Rev. Dr. Anne Miner-Pearson
August 4, 2019

Gemma Evette Hockinson is being baptized this morning. How exciting! And I know the Hockinson family is eager and has been planning for this day for some months. But still I wonder: do we have everything we need for Gemma's baptism? It's an important event in her young life and we want to be sure that everything is here and we are ready.

So, I have my clipboard here with a checklist and pencil to help us make sure. But I need some help. So, Gavin and Graham, I have clipboards, checklists and pencils for you. Will you help me? Great, let's get started.

1. Is Gemma here? And your mom and dad? And family?
2. What else do we need? Water! Yes, let's go check it.
3. Here's the water - good, but there's much more back here at the font.
4. Here's a very tall candle on a tall stand. That's called the Pascal Candle because it burns in Easter and its flame reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and his new life in us.
5. So, here is a small candle just for Gemma. You got your own candle when you were baptized. We will light them after her baptism because she carries Jesus' light like all of us.
6. But there's more here: there is a small gold container of special oil. It's been blessed to be used just for baptisms. Just as kings and special people used to be marked with oil, we will mark and seal Gemma as Christ's own forever.
7. I think we have it all - Gemma, water, oil and candle. Oh, wait a minute. We almost forgot a very important part of a baptism: the community, the Body of Christ, a faith and commitment of all the people here and around the world, past and yet to come. Baptisms need a community of Christians whose faith and love of God holds us, loves us, comforts us and supports Gemma and all of us every day of our lives and beyond when we die and join the Communion of Saints. God's love and their faith goes with us from the font and beyond. So, Gavin and Graham, is the community here?



Check! Now, we know we have all need to baptize Gemma. Let's begin.