

# ¶ Welcome of Disciples on the Way of Faith

## Welcome

*The minister may introduce the Welcome in these or similar words*

Today it is our joy and privilege to welcome *N and N* as *disciples* on the Way of Christ. *They* are among us as a sign of the journey of faith to which we are all called.

*The minister invites the disciples to stand before the people with their sponsors. The sponsors introduce them, and the minister says*

We thank God for his presence in your *lives*  
and for the grace that has brought you here today.  
We welcome you.

What is it that you seek?

*The disciples may reply in their own words, or may say*

**To learn the Way of Christ.**

*The minister addresses the congregation*

We welcome *N and N*  
in the love and hope of Christ.  
Will you support and pray for *them*,  
and learn with *them* the Way of Christ?

*All* **With the help of God, we will.**

*The minister may introduce the sponsors and address them using these or other suitable words*

Will you accompany *N and N* on the journey of faith,  
supporting *them* with friendship, love and prayer?

**With the help of God, we will.**

*The minister may commission the sponsors using these or other suitable words*

May God give you the gift of love  
to serve *N and N* whom he loved first.  
May God give you the gift of faith  
to share the good news of his kingdom.  
May God give you the gift of joy  
as you journey together with Jesus our Lord.

And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

*The minister then addresses each candidate separately or the group together*

Will you receive the sign of the Cross,  
as a mark of Christ's love for you as you explore his Way?  
**I will.**

*The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate. The sponsors may be invited to sign the candidates with the cross. The minister says*

Receive the sign of the cross.  
May Christ our Redeemer,  
who claims you for his own,  
deliver you from evil and guide you on the way.

*Where a candidate is already baptized, the minister uses these words*

Receive the sign of the cross.  
May Christ our Redeemer,  
who in your baptism claimed you for his own,  
protect and guide you.

*Prayer may be offered for each new disciple. After all have been prayed with, the minister says this or a similar prayer. It may be said over each disciple or the whole group.*

God of life,  
you give us the gift of faith.  
Guide *N and N* by your wisdom  
and surround them with your love.  
Deepen their knowledge of Christ  
and set their feet on the Way that leads to life.  
May your people uphold them in love,  
find in them a sign of hope,  
and learn with them the way of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*A gift expressing welcome to the new disciple from the congregation may be given.*