CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HELLERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

January 21, 2024

10:00am

~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

As you enter the worship space, feel free to go to the altar and light a candle representing your life and the light you are to the world. May you shine brightly throughout the week.

Order of Worship

Baptism Sunday

Organ Prelude

Steve Wysocki

No matter who you are or where you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

Welcome & Announcements

Temple Talk:

Worship & Music Team

Kurt Rank

Team Leader

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime~

Silence~

Prayer~

Opening Song: You Say



An Order for the Baptism of Calliope Luna Brown

The baptism of Jesus is dying to our self-centered endeavors and being resurrected into a life marked by grace, love and hope. When we live in the baptism of Jesus, we touch the hearts of others and help open them to the Holy Spirit and new life in Christ. Live and grow in the new life you have been given!

Presentation of Calliope

Pastor Phil addresses parents

Trusting in the grace and love of God, do you, Tim and Kelly, desire to have Calliope baptized? **We do.**

As you present Calliope for baptism, we want to remind you of the gifts and responsibilities that you have to offer her. Life is a journey, and the start we get makes a difference. Today you are making a promise to do all that you can to see that Calliope is nurtured in love at home and within a Christian community of faith. May love and understanding never be in want in your home.

Tim and Kelly, do you promise to help Calliope grow in the Christian faith and life? We do.

Pastor Phil addresses sponsors

Daniel, Gabriela, Mark, and Ian, Calliope will grow up surrounded by family, friends, and relatives. You are special people to Tim and Kelly. Will you, with the gifts God has given to you, ensure that the compassion, love, and grace Jesus lived and taught are reflected in your relationship with Calliope? **We will.**

Pastor Phil addresses congregation

Participation in a community of faith is essential to the Christian life. Each of you as followers of Jesus share in creating a welcoming and nurturing community of faith. Will you use your talents, gifts, and resources to further the ministries of this church as we seek to help all people grow in faith? **We will.**

Water is essential in the journey of life.

- The waters of baptism represent a spiritual cleaning that Jesus offers with forgiveness and love.
- The waters of baptism represent filling the thirsty wells of our souls with the word of God's grace and hope.
- The waters of baptism represent the washing away of the ego-driven self so that the lifegiving spirit of God can dwell within.

Jesus says, "Go therefore to all people and make them disciples, followers of Jesus, and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

It is in this spirit that we welcome Calliope into a journey with Jesus, forever a child of God.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this water so that Calliope may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Pastor Phil baptizes Calliope

Calliope, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sustain Calliope with the gift of your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Calliope, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A candle is lighted representing the baptized life

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us pray: God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Tim and Kelly. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of God's love for Calliope. Strengthen them in their own baptism so they may live a life of grace and be the light and love of Christ to Calliope. **Amen.**

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Calliope, child of God, by this act of baptism, we welcome you to a journey that will take your whole life. This isn't the end. It's the beginning of your life with God. What God will make of you, we know not. Where God will take you, surprise you, we cannot say. This we do know, and this we say – God is with you.

Baptism Song: Anytime (I Am There) from "Elegies" William Finn (b.1952)

Julia Brown, vocalist Mark Saylor, piano

Time for All Ages Josh Gulotta

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Dave Kubisek

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Gospel Acclamation: Good Soil

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

Online giving available via Vanco on our website: www.clcht.org

January 2024, Special Offering

Food Bank - Produce Fund

Anthem: We Could Change the World

Christ Lutheran Church Choir

Mat Redman (b.1974)

Prayers of the Church

Lenore Spohn

After each petition: The call to follow Jesus takes focus, energy, and commitment.

Prayers: The Martin Family, Linda Schaub, Sue Raab, Angela Drake, Michele Achey,

Bob Fairall, Jaime Laslo, Tom & Joyce Daschke, Bill Horvath,

Tiffany Weddle, Ray H., Kim Rigney, Alex Grande, Rhonda, Charlie, Kyle

Hospice: Bill Lawler, Kenneth Sem, Jan Weirbach

Condolences: The Martin Knappe Family

When a name is placed on the Prayer List, it will remain there for one month unless you notify us. If you would like a call, a visit, or communion from Pastor Phil, please call the church office.

Finally, and together: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers

and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of Jesus, whom we

love and follow. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song: Make a Difference

Benediction: Go, My Children, with My Blessing ELW #543 v.1

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Postlude