

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

12th Sunday after Pentecost – The Sacrament of Baptism

August 28, 2022

10:00 a.m.

We Gather as God's People

The Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

Many: **Jesus emerges from the water.**

One: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

Many: **“This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased.”**

One: In the waters Jesus is named and claimed.

Many: **We come to the water. We remember we are named and claimed as God's beloved.**

One: Can it be so?

Many: **What a thing to be named and claimed by God.**

One: Let us pray... God of storms and rainbows, God of rain and sunshine,

Many: **God of all creation we worship and adore you.**

One: We gaze in wonder at the beauty of your creation and marvel at stormy skies transformed with the vibrant colors of a rainbow.

Many: **Like Noah and his family, we praise you for this everlasting sign of your love and care for the whole creation in your desire to preserve and not destroy life.**

One: And at Jesus' baptism, the sky again revealed your love when you identified him as your beloved Son,

Many: **strengthening him with the same Spirit who empowers and strengthens each of us.**

One: For all these assurances of your love for us and for the whole creation,

Many: **we praise and worship you, O God,**

One: in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: **Amen.**

We Listen for God's Word

The Scripture

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

A Baptism Reflection Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

We Respond to God's Love Through Baptism

The Baptism Song “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

The Invitation to the Sacrament of Baptism

Elder: On behalf of the Session, we gather here this morning with Jacob Daniel Wagner who has requested to be baptized along with Matt and Megan (Lydia) Meier, parents and sister of Duncan Bernard Meier who have requested baptism for their son.

Pastor: What is baptism?

People: In the sacramental waters of baptism, we are adopted, named and claimed as God's children and welcomed in to God's family.

Pastor: In baptism, we are made one with Christ and one with all who are joined to Christ in the church. Today we welcome Jacob and Duncan into God's faith family, the family into which we were baptized. So let us remember with joy our own baptisms even as we celebrate Jacob and Duncan's baptisms today.

The Questions to Jacob Wagner and to Matt and Megan Meier

Pastor: Jacob Daniel Wagner, putting your whole trust in the grace and love of Jesus Christ, do you desire to be baptized?

Jacob: I do.

Pastor: Matt and Megan, Do you desire in the grace and love of Jesus Christ that Duncan Bernard be baptized?

Parents: We do.

If Sponsors: Will you, by your prayers and witness, help Duncan to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsors: We will, with God's help.

To the Congregation: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Jacob and Duncan by word and deed, with love and prayer?

Congregation: We do.

To the Congregation: Will you encourage Jacob and Duncan to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ's Church along their journeys in life?

Congregation: We will.

Profession of Faith [In Unison]

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we enter the covenant God established in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant God gives us new life, strengthens us to resist evil, and nurtures us in love. Through this covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

To Jacob: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Jacob: I renounce them.

To Jacob: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jacob: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

To Jacob: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Jacob: I will, with God's help.

To Jacob: Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Jacob: I will, with God's help.

To Matt and Megan: As the parents of Duncan, Will you be responsible for nurturing the child you present in the faith and life of the Christian community?

Parents: We will, with God's help.

To Matt and Megan: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

To Matt and Megan: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the ministry of Christ in your own life?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

To Matt and Megan: Do you promise to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help him be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

The Question to the Congregation

Pastor: People of God, will you promise to uphold and support both Jacob and Duncan in their life in Christ?

Congregation: We will, with God's help.

Affirmation of Faith [In Unison]

Pastor: With the whole church, let us affirm our faith, witnessing in word to what we believe:

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit...claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation, and calls people of all ages to all ministries of the church. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer Over the Water

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. With water you destroyed evil in the days of Noah. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Christ, that he might lead us through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you loving God, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in the resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we receive into the community of faith those whom you have called and justified.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that as Jacob and Duncan are made a new creation through these baptismal waters, they may join us in preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives and setting at liberty those who are oppressed. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Words at Baptism:

Jacob Daniel Wagner, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Jacob, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever.

Duncan Bernard Meier, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Duncan, child of the Covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever.

The Prayer Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

O Lord, uphold Jacob and Duncan by your Holy Spirit. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

The Charge to the CongregationElder

Today, in these baptisms, we have witnessed a sign of God's everlasting covenant between us, as children of God, and God. These people are descendants of Abraham and Sarah through the covenant of grace—blessings to their families, blessings to our church family, and blessings to the whole family of creation. Let us rejoice that God is faithful and continues the covenant. Let us welcome them into the family of God.

The Congregation's Response [In Unison]

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the Gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ.

The Song of Welcome "Water Has Held Us"

We Depart to Do God's Will

The Sending [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: Friends, You are the body of Christ. May you have the heart of Christ, tender for mercy. May you have the eyes of Christ to see a world in need. May you have the feet of Christ to bring good news. Go in peace! And God go with you, this day and every day. And all God's people said:

Many: **Amen.**

- Thank you to Sam Marrese-Wheeler for our special music today.