

Living Water Fellowship

Worship with Holy Communion and Holy Baptism

2nd Sunday in Easter – 16th April 2023

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION REVIVAL ANTHEM (REND COLLECTIVE)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: *Sing of the Lord's Goodness (AT 524)*

BIBLE READING: 1 Peter 1:1-12

⁴ This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, & Bithynia. ² God the Father knew you & chose you long ago, & his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him & have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more & more grace & peace.

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again into a living hope, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead & into ⁴ a priceless inheritance—an inheritance kept in heaven, pure & undefiled, beyond the reach of change & decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests & purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise & glory & honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; & you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. ¹¹ They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering & his great glory afterward.

¹² They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. Now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

FAITH CHAT:

1. Where in the world today do you feel like a "stranger, foreigner or alien"? What do you do about that?
2. How does the assurance of life in Christ effect how you live each day? What might be different without that assurance?

SONG: Speak O Lord

THE MESSAGE: *THE NEW NORMAL: LIVING IN CERTAINTY*

OFFERING SONG: *There is None Like You (PW 637)*

*The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
for Aurora Mae Henman*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST (KING'S KALEIDOSCOPE)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God, You can be certain about life in Christ because he is certain about you! -- Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Go & Tell (AT 579)

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. How is it humbling & helpful to know that Peter was often a mess & failed to grasp what Jesus wanted him to know, but ultimately was greatly used by God?
3. List the words or phrases Peter uses to describe those who will receive his letter. Those descriptions apply to you. How do you feel about that?
4. Note how Peter relates the Trinity to eternal life. What is significant about that?
5. Compare Ex 24:1-8, Heb 9:25-10:4 & 1 Pet 1:2. What is the significance of "sprinkling by/with blood"? How is Jesus' blood different from any other sacrificial bloodletting?
6. What difficult circumstances does Peter acknowledge in the lives of his readers? What is the gift we receive in Christ that encourages us in those situations? What about that gift is most notable according to Peter? How does that shape our perspective on suffering? In the midst of suffering & trial what attitude is possible for followers of Jesus because of Christ's gift of salvation? How successful are you in that?
7. How is joy possible when life is difficult? How does Peter commend joy? Is this joy only "in heaven" or is it something we can experience here & now? Why? What keeps people from experiencing joy in their daily lives?
8. How do verses 8-9 describe a great part of your relationship with Jesus?
9. What does it mean practically to be citizens of the Kingdom of God while we are residents of a nation? Where have you become too "at home" in this world such that no one can see your higher allegiance to Christ?
10. How does our tested faith result in glory & honour? How have you seen your faith tested & Christ glorified through trials in your life? Describe a time when you have gone to Scripture for comfort in the middle of a trial & found peace in God?
11. For whom can you demonstrate the attitude of Christ (who persevered in suffering) & the attitude of Peter (who encouraged others in their suffering)?
12. What does this text call you to do?

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

P: Holy Baptism is God's gift to us. In this Sacrament God brings us into the body of Christ - the church - and makes us part of the family of God. God takes water and adds to it the power of His Word. Baptism is a rebirth, a new life in Christ. Today we rejoice that Christ grants the gift of new life in him to **Aurora Mae Henman**. Jesus said:

All: ...I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives believing in me will never die.

(John 11:25)

...I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

(John 3:5)

...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

(Matt. 28:19-20)

P: Today you are responding to the command of Jesus and the love of God. Baptism is a beautiful gift of God's grace and we rejoice with you on this special day. I ask you: Will you faithfully bring this child to worship; teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, and the Ten Commandments; place in her hands the Holy Scriptures; and provide for her instruction and nurture in the Christian faith to lead her in a life of devotion and imitation of Jesus Christ? If so, say "we will."

Baptismal Party:

We will!

P: Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and the world's empty promises? If so answer, "We do."

Baptismal Party:

We do!

P: I ask all worshiping today, Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, & sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's word and by God's command. God rescues us through this washing and cleansing which gives us new birth and life. Please present this child for Baptism.

Baptismal Party:

We present **Aurora Mae Henman** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: Aurora Mae Henman, I baptize you in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Aurora** child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Receive this lighted candle. The candle is a symbol that Christ is the light of the world and you are to let the light of Christ shine brightly in your home always. You who are sponsors for **Aurora** are making a commitment to surround her with your love and prayers and do all you can to help **Mitchell & Olivia** nurture her in the Christian Faith. Will you pray for her, love her, teach her the word of God and stand with her in joy and sorrow? If so say, "Yes with the help of God."

Sponsors:

Yes, with the help of God.

P: (*to the congregation*) Today we receive **Aurora** as a child of God to be part of our Christian community.

C: Praise God for the gift of new life. We welcome you into our family of faith. We promise to pray for you & grow together in our life in Christ.

P: Let us pray. God, you make light to shine in darkness. You cause new life to spring out of old. We are thankful that you accept **Aurora** as your own. We are grateful for the gift of grace, which accepts us as we are. May **she** grow in faith and always know she is a part of your family & you are her loving God. May each of us know the joy of abundant life in Christ & remember this special day when water joined the Word and changed life forever. May we too be changed today, in Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

Portions of Baptismal Liturgy are taken from "Plain Talk Before God: The Language of Worship,"
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