

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025

MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M.

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: *Jesus said, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."
-Luke 6:36*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood

PRELUDE: *Savior of the Nations Come* (BWV 599).....T. *Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland*
J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP.....The Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

BAPTISM

For the Baptism of Children and Adults

[Standing]

(A hymn of baptism or faith may be sung.)

In grace God called and chose the people of Israel and established with them a covenant: I will be your God and you will be my people. In that relationship they were to be freed from sin and become a blessing to all. Then God came to us in Jesus Christ and fulfilled that covenant for all people. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, God made for us a new covenant of grace.

We come before you with joy, O God, to claim the promises of your covenant.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted baptism as the visible means of entry into the new covenant. Baptism is a gift of God. In this sacrament, through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ, are cleansed by his saving work, enter into the fellowship of the church, and are called to a life of faith and willing obedience.

Those of you baptized into Christ Jesus, how were you baptized?

Into his death. We were buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glorious power of God Almighty, we too might be raised to live a new life.

(When only adults are baptized, the following sentence is omitted.)

In baptism children also share in the benefits of our Lord's redeeming work through God's grace and the faith of parents, and of the church,

For God's promise is to us and to our children.

(The minister addresses the candidates, parents, and sponsors.)

As you present *yourselves* before God and this congregation, we call upon you to profess your faith.

Do you believe in God as your Creator and loving heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Sustainer, according to the Holy Scriptures?

I do.

(Candidates, parents, and sponsors may profess their faith by means of the Apostles' Creed, the baptismal profession of the early church. The congregation may be invited to join in the Creed as an affirmation of their own baptism.)

BAPTISM

Lord, make us one with all your children as we profess our faith, saying:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

*Ancient text reads "catholic," which means "universal."

(The minister addresses the candidates, parents, and sponsors.)

Do you in this faith turn away from sin, evil, and selfishness in your thoughts, words, and actions; and do you intend to participate actively in Christ's church, serving God all the days of your life?

I do.

(When only adults are baptized, the following question for parents and sponsors is omitted.)

Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, do you promise to lead your *children* by prayer, instruction, and example toward that time when *they* can by grace confirm *their* faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and commit *themselves* to the life and work of the church?

I do.

(The minister addresses the congregation.)

Do you receive and affirm *these children* of God as *members* of this congregation, and accept your obligation to love and nurture *them* in Christ?

We do.

(Sitting. One of the following hymns is sung.)

BAPTISM

EISENACH (90 A)

An in - fant we pre - sent to thee as thy re - deem - ed prop - er - ty,
and thee most fer - vent - ly en - treat thy - self this child to con - se - crate
by bap - tism, and its soul to bless, out of the full - ness of thy grace.

The musical score for 'EISENACH (90 A)' is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

— OR —

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i - ta - tion, you are the
truth, our hope, and our sal - va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r,
give, O Dove de - scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.

The musical score for 'CHRISTE SANCTORUM' is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

TEXT: © H. Francis Yardley

TUNE: Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt. From the *English Hymnal* (1906), by permission of Oxford University Press.

(Water may be poured into the font or bowl.)

We thank you, gracious God, for the gift of water, which you have created and given to us as a sign of life. We recall with gratitude how you led your people from slavery to freedom through the waters of the sea. We rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit at the baptism of your Son in the waters of the Jordan, and we praise you for opening to us the way of eternal life through his death and resurrection. Now send your Spirit upon _____ who *receive(s)* the water of baptism today, so that *they* may become *(a)* living, growing and active *member(s)* of your church, rise to new life, be led and nourished by your word and sacraments, and share in your eternal blessings.

Amen.

(When only adults are baptized, the following is omitted.)

Give to *these parents and sponsors* your wisdom and strength, that with love and understanding *they* may guide to Christian maturity the young *lives* entrusted to *their* care.

Amen.

(The minister baptizes each candidate with a threefold application of water, saying:)

_____, into the death of Jesus I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Each newly baptized person receives the laying on of hands, symbolizing the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. Parents and sponsors of young children join with the minister in the laying on of hands.)

Now through God's grace and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, you have been brought into the covenant; therefore live, yet not you alone, but Christ live in you; and the life which you live now, live by faith in the Son of God, who loved you and gave his life for you.

(The minister pronounces a text of Scripture for the newly baptized adult.)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

(539 B)

In the name of Je - sus. A - men.

(If there are no Affirmations of Baptism through Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Faith, or Transfer of Membership, the following hymn is sung here.)

HJS (22 F)

Here in the name of Christ our Lord, the
We wel - come you a - mong us here, with
The God of peace you sanc - ti - fy and

church's Head by all a - dored, with Chris - tian love and
joy that God has brought you near. With heart and hand we
bless you rich - ly from on high, that spir - it, soul, and

pur - pose true, this church in faith em - brac - es you.
pledge our love, and pray Christ's bless - ing from a - bove.
bod - y may re - flect God's pres - ence ev - 'ry day.

CONFIRMATION AND AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(If the Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated in the same worship service, those affirming baptism join in the opening paragraphs of that service, and continue with the appropriate Affirmation forms beginning on page 171.)

(Standing)

In grace God called and chose the people of Israel and established with them a covenant: I will be your God and you will be my people. In that relationship they were to be freed from sin and become a blessing to all. Then God came to us in Jesus Christ and fulfilled that covenant for all people. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, God made for us a new covenant of grace.

We come before you with joy, O God, to claim the promises of your covenant.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted baptism as the visible means of entry into the new covenant. Baptism is a gift of God. In this sacrament, through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ, are cleansed by his saving work, enter into the fellowship of the church, and are called to a life of faith and willing obedience.

Claimed by God in baptism, we pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit our lives may faithfully affirm the blessings of Christ's new covenant.

(The minister addresses the candidates.)

As you present *yourselves* before God and this congregation, we call upon you to profess your faith.

Do you believe in God as your Creator and loving heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Sustainer, according to the Holy Scriptures?

I do.

(Candidates may profess their faith by means of the Apostles' Creed, the baptismal profession of the early church. The congregation may be invited to join in the Creed as an affirmation of their own baptism.)

Lord, make us one with all your children as we profess our faith, saying:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

* Ancient text reads "catholic," which means "universal."

(The minister addresses the candidates.)

Do you in this faith turn away from sin, evil, and selfishness in your thoughts, words, and actions; and do you intend to participate actively in Christ's church, serving God all the days of your life?

I do.

(The minister addresses the congregation.)

Do you affirm *these children* of God as *members* of this congregation, and accept your obligation to love and nurture *them* in Christ?

We do.

The Rite of Confirmation

(The minister addresses the candidates for confirmation.)

In the presence of God and this congregation, do you confirm the covenant into which you were baptized, relying on the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide you into ever increasing maturity in your relationship with Christ and the church?

I do.

(Sitting)

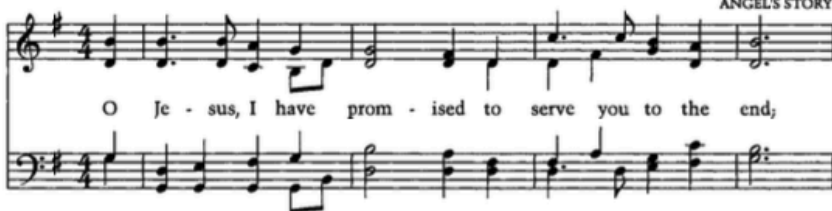
Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have received *these person(s)* into your covenant through baptism. You have provided for *their* growth, enlightened *their* mind(s) with your truth, and enabled *them* to offer *themselves* to you. We ask that you accept the vows *they* have made today. Defend and strengthen *them* with your Holy Spirit, empower *them* for your service, and sustain *them* all the days of *their* lives.

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

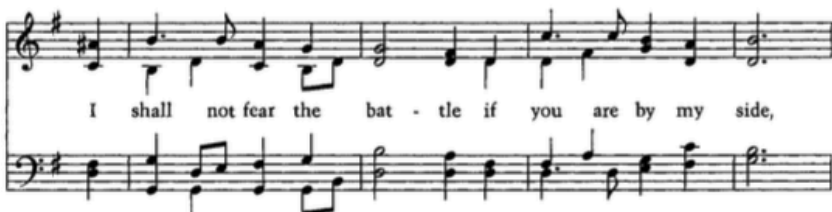
ANGEL'S STORY



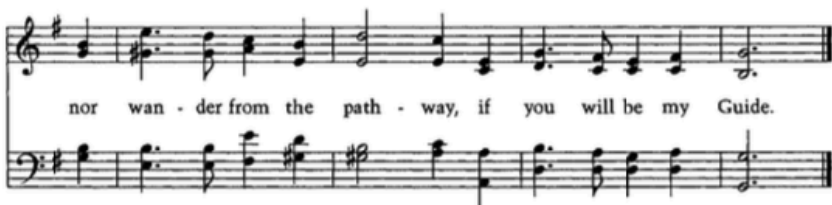
O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



be now and ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my Friend;



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,



nor wan - der from the path - way, if you will be my Guide.

(The candidates for confirmation present themselves. The minister, laying hands upon the head of each, names the candidate, and pronounces a text of Scripture.)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

(539 B)

In the name of Je - sus. A - men.

(Confirmands standing)

By affirming your baptismal covenant in public worship today, you have taken another step in your journey with God. You have entered into a new relationship with God and this congregation. We charge you in God's name always to remain faithful to Christ and the church, and to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Reaffirmation of Faith

(The congregation sitting, the candidates present themselves, and the minister gives them the following greeting and charge.)

_____, you have affirmed your faith and baptismal covenant before God and this congregation, and, by the grace and strength of Christ, have declared your desire and promise to renew your Christian discipleship. We welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

May the Lord be with you. Build *yourselves* up on your most holy faith, led by the Holy Spirit. Keep *yourselves* by grace in the love of God, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy to give you eternal life.

Transfer of Membership

(The congregation sitting, the candidates present themselves, and the minister gives them the following greeting and charge.)

_____, through baptism, profession of faith, and Christian service, you have already entered into the life of the Church Universal, and today we rejoice to welcome and receive you into the fellowship of this congregation. Continue faithfully in the good way you have chosen in Christ, and may the Holy Spirit bless you in your life among us. May we all, through grace, be enabled to support and encourage one another in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(Standing. During the singing of the following hymn, the minister and others, according to local practice, give the right hand of fellowship to all who have been baptized or who have publicly affirmed their baptism on this day.)

HUS (22 F)

Here in the name of Christ our Lord, the
 We wel - come you a - mong us here, with
 The God of peace you sanc - ti - fy and

church's Head by all a - dored, with Chris - tian love and
 joy that God has brought you near. With heart and hand we
 bless you rich - ly from on high, that spir - it, soul, and

pur - pose true, this church in faith em - brac - es you.
 pledge our love, and pray Christ's bless - ing from a - bove.
 bod - y may re - flect God's pres - ence ev - 'ry day.

1 Corinthians 15:35-50
Luke 6:27-38

During the singing of the next hymn, children age 3 and up are welcome to follow Godly Play leaders to continue their worship in CE-106.

HYMN 643 - *In Mercy, Lord, This Grace Bestow*.....T. Rockingham, Old

In Mercy, Lord, This Grace Bestow 643

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 In mer - cy, Lord, this grace be - stow, that
2 Lord, grant that we im - pelled by love in

in your serv - ice we may do with glad - ness and a
small - est things may faith - ful prove; till we de - part, our

will - ing mind what - ev - er is for us as - signed.
lives be true, de - vot - ed whol - ly un - to you.

TEXT: St. 1 Anna Nitschmann (1715-1760). Tr. Frederick William Foster, alt.
St. 2 Henriette Louise von Hayn (1724-1782). Tr. anon., alt.
TUNE: Edward Miller (1790)

L.M.
ROCKINGHAM, OLD (22 G)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15.....Rev. Tobiasen

SERMON

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive 777

Unison

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us,
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for -
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and bid re -

Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can grant us grace to
 giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old
 dim - ly knew: what triv - ial debts are owed to us; how
 sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in bonds of love, our

live the words we say, to live the words we say.
 bit - ter - ness de - part, old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 great our debt to you, how great our debt to you.
 lives will spread your peace, our lives will spread your peace.

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987). Used by permission of Oxford University Press
TUNE: American folk tune. Arr. Austin C. Lovelace. ©1977 by Hope Publishing Company
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C.M.
DOVE OF PEACE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The offertory provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways that we can express our gratitude in response to God: with time, treasure, talents, and testimony. For financial giving online: Use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>. Click the DONATE tab on any page of the Home Church website. For more information, go to homemoravian.org/donate. You can make one-time or recurring gifts. Text HOME to 73256 on your phone.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

ANTHEM: *Lord, Make Us Instruments of Thy Peace*.....Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Home Church Choir

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy; for thy mercy, and for thy Truth's sake. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLDRev. Tobiassen

RECONCILIATION

784 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - f'rence, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings; our God is mak - ing all things new.

For Holy Communion

5 In faith we'll gather round the table
 to taste and share what love can do.
 This is a day of new beginnings,
 our God is making all things new.

TEXT: Brian Wren (1978), alt. (1987)
 TUNE: Carlton R. Young (1984)

Text and tune ©1987 by Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

9.8.9.8.
 BEGINNINGS

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Hymn 832, *The Grace of Our Lord*

While singing, we extend the right hand of fellowship. Those who wish may exit as the postlude begins.

SERVICE MUSIC

832 The Grace of Our Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ, and the love of God, and the com - mu - nion of the Ho - ly Spir - it, be with us all, be with us all. A - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 13:13
TUNE: Christian Gregor (1763)

Irregular
(540 E)

POSTLUDE: *Impromptu No. 1*.....Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

GODLY PLAY, CE-106, 10:20 a.m. (ages 3 and up), *Feeding the*

5000 CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE, 11:00 a.m., CE-104

FEASTING ON THE WORD, 11:15 a.m., CE-101 and Zoom

BIBLE DISCUSSION, 11:15 a.m., Club Room and Zoom

CHILDREN'S POWER HOUR, 11:15 a.m., CE Building

YOUTH POWER HOUR, 11:15 a.m., Wachovia Garden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend a cordial welcome to all visitors this morning and invite you to join us again whenever possible. Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register, pass it both ways in your pew, and greet those near you. After the service, pick up a beverage in the serving room off the Sanctuary, and enjoy fellowship. **Our new members will gather in the parlor after worship for a time of greeting; drop by and introduce yourself!**

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today in loving memory of *Patricia Sear Dyer* and *Stuart Bernard Sear* by the family.

We welcome into membership: By Baptism: *Andrea Lusk*. **By Transfer of Membership:** *Rev. Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Campbell; Anthony and Melanie Edwards; Marty Edwards; Jerry and Shirley Maney; Cora Raines; Andrew, Rose, Palmer, Eleanor, and Marshall Stone; Autumn Williams*. If you wish to send a word of welcome to these new members by mail, you will find addresses listed on the bulletin insert.

Interested in becoming a member? Speak to a pastor for more information.

During Lent, we will be celebrating Holy Communion each Wednesday night in the Saal at 6:45 p.m. Our theme this year will be the Six Essentials of the Moravian Church. Each week will focus on a different Essential with a different speaker each night.

Craig Atwood's class/podcast on Moravian Theology will resume next Sunday in the Saal. During Lent, we will look at the theology of Zinzendorf.

Virginia Hege Tobiassen, *Pastor Craig Atwood, Associate Pastor*
Glenn Siebert, *Director of Music Jonathan Williams, Organist*
Becky Hodges, *Director of Christian Formation*
Philip Montgomery, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*
529 S. Church Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, 336-722-6171
home1771@homemoravian.org www.homemoravian.org
(10 a.m. Morning Worship is broadcast on WSJS-AM 600)

CALENDAR

- Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Nursery, CE-105
10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
10:20 a.m. - *Godly Play*, CE-106
11:00 a.m. - Children's Choir Practice, CE-104
11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship, Lovefeast Serving Room
Greet our newest members in the Church Parlor!
11:15 a.m. - Feasting on the Word, CE-101 and Zoom
Bible Discussion, Club Room and Zoom
Children's Power Hour, CE Building
Youth Power Hour, Wachovia Garden
- Monday - 5:00 p.m. - Christian Formation Committee, CE-101
- Tuesday - 11:30 a.m. - Praying in Color, Parlor
3:00 p.m. - Finance Committee, RB-225
5:00 p.m. - Building and Grounds Committee, Club Room
5:30 p.m. - Children's Ministry Team, CE-101
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Band, Rehearsal Room
7:30 p.m. - Chorale Band, Rehearsal Room
- Wednesday - 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast, Cagney's Restaurant
5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner, Fellowship
Hall 6:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Fellowship Program, Fellowship Hall
- Thursday - 2:00 p.m. - Flute Choir, RB-5
6:30 p.m. - Choir, RB-5
- Next Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Nursery, CE-105
10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
10:20 a.m. - *Godly Play*, CE-106
11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship, Lovefeast Serving Room
11:15 a.m. - Feasting on the Word, CE-101 and Zoom
Bible Discussion, Club Room and Zoom
Moravian Theology, Saal
Children's Power Hour, CE Building
Youth Power Hour, CE Building
3:00 p.m. - Great Sabbath Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

HMC Wednesday Night Fellowship Winter Series

"A Church Engaged, A Community Healed, A World Transformed"

February 26: *A Community Healed: Dealing with Mental Health Needs in Our Community* Community meal at 5:45pm / Program begins at 6:45pm

Menu: Stuffed Peppers, Black Bean and Corn Salad, Cornbread, Dessert

----- Tear off and place in offering plate -----

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner Reservation

Reservations for supper are encouraged by 5:00 p.m. on Monday. Contact the church office for more information at (336) 722-6171 or tear off the reservation form below and place in the offering plate. Adults & Children 13 and older - \$5.00 Children ages 4 to 12 years old - \$3.00 Children ages 3 and under - Free

Name(s) _____

_____ Standing Reservations (#) ___ Adult (#) ___ Child Gluten Free (#) ___

Vegetarian (#) ___ Attending this week only (#) _____ Adult (#) _____ Child

Attending the program / activity following the meal ___ Yes ___ No