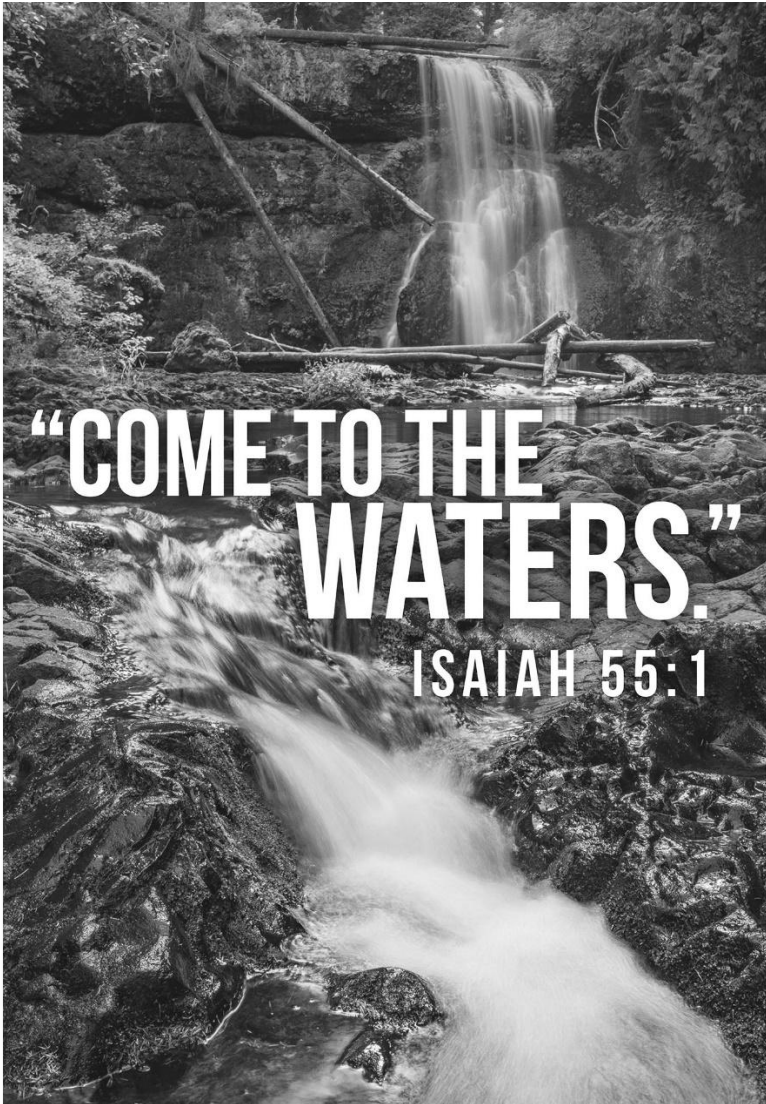


**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA**

Celebrating the Baptism of our Lord

January 11, 2025



**“COME TO THE
WATERS.”**

ISAIAH 55:1

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.chrighthamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

Please know that **all are welcome** at Christ Hamilton! If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering. Please note there are also kids kits in the back for the children to utilize during the service. **Children's church takes place in the Lighthouse until the middle hymn of the service if interested please ask an usher.**

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available and hearing assisting devices, please ask an usher if you would like one.

Today's service: *In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

Altar flowers are given in memory of Jane Person's father, Estel Lawson, by Dick and Jane Person

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

SONG

Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,
4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

The musical score is written in a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with some words spanning across bar lines. The score is divided into two systems, each with four numbered lines of lyrics.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009

Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 42:1-9

Reader: A reading from the 42nd chapter of Isaiah.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

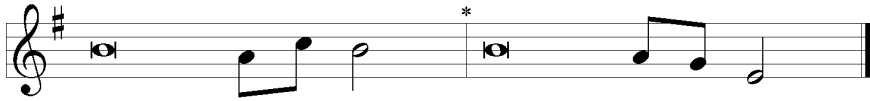
⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 29



Cantor: Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

Cantor: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory
thunders;
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

**All: The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor.**

Cantor: The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

**All: The Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

Cantor: The voice | of the Lord
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

**All: The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

Cantor: The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, "Glory!"

**All: The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

Cantor: O Lord, give strength | to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING**ACTS 10:34-43**Reader: A reading from the 10th chapter of Acts.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Please stand.

SONG

Christ, When for Us

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

NICENE CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers

Assisting Minister: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of all. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill especially those we lift to you from our hearts and from our lips Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Promising One, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

All: Amen.

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The Peace is shared with one another.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . God of majesty,

All: No eye has seen, no ear has heard

**what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.**

Use what we have gathered

**to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Minister: You are indeed Holy, Almighty and Merciful God.

You are most Holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world

to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all
things for our salvation.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: Let us pray together with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

**All: 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**

Please be seated.

Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right hand aisle, receive the bread and wine, and return by way of the left hand aisle.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Please stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face
of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and
blood you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen

BLESSING

Pastor: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father,
the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever.

All: Amen.

I'm Going on a Journey



1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My



head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;



it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!



2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It



real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's



been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.



3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll



keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A - long the way



I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Organist: Beth McElroy
Lector: Bonnie Claycomb
Lay Assistant: Bonnie Claycomb
Greeters: Bonnie & Roger Wrazien and Shirley Frable
Choir Director: Tassy Gilbert
Announcements: Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer: Joey Marshall

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

Jan Birthdays: Pastor Steve 1/2, John Young 1/3, Steve Metzgar 1/4, Colleen Garis and Jane Person 1/8, Bud Bonser 1/14, Danielle Ertle 1/18, Amanda Balas 1/21, Donna Davis 1/22, Jeff Gilbert 1/26.

2026 Offering Envelopes are available in the lobby of the Lighthouse. Please pick them up as soon as possible. If you would like your envelopes mailed, please email the office at chulcsts@gmail.com.

Pastor Steve will begin a study on the book *Cherished Belonging*. Feel free to order the book from your favorite retailer and join the conversation! Study is tentatively starting the week of January 18th. If you have any questions please email Pastor Steve at revclay@ptd.net.

January 18th at 4:30pm Community meal in the Lighthouse