

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

“But I say to you that listen,

Love

your enemies,

do good

to those who hate you,

bless

those who curse you,

pray

for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

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.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. If you don't know your neighbor please welcome them. **All are welcome here!** Please join us for coffee hour after the service in the serving area of the Lighthouse (*building to right as you exit*). At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

Today's service: *Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

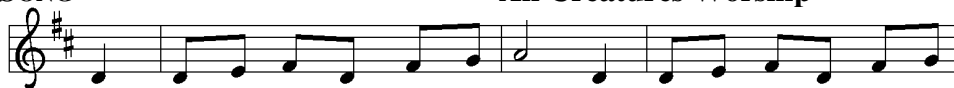
Altar flowers are given in celebration of Elliana Grace's 18th birthday by Amanda and John Balas.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

SONG

All Creatures Worship



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



- sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor
 grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 thron: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your



- bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1997 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 Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

Reader: A reading from the 45th chapter of Genesis.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more

years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ”¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 37:1-6, 39-40



Cantor: Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

**All: For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

Cantor: Put your trust in the Lord | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

**All: Take delight | in the Lord,
who shall give you your | heart’s desire.**

Cantor: Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust | in the Lord,
and see what | God will do.

**All: The Lord will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

Cantor: But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.

**All: You, O Lord, will help them and | rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you | they seek refuge.**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50

Reader: A reading from the 15th chapter of First Corinthians.

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

Luke 6:27-38

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what

credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

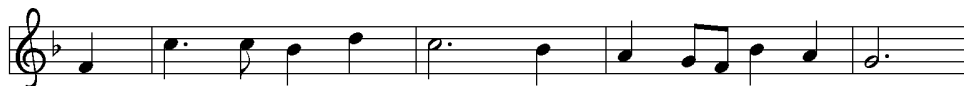
Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG

Oh, Praise



1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

APOSTLE'S CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: 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 into hell.

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints,

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers

Assisting Minister: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care especially those we raise to you now. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. We give thanks for all our Stephens Ministers. Empower the congregations of St.

Jacobi, Shohola, St. Luke Greeley, Christ, Stone Church, St. John, Stroudsburg and St. Paul in Tannersville. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace.

God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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.

Offering

Offertory

Making their Way v. 1, 3



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin-ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as-sem-ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea-son by sea-son, pil-grims, we jour-ney



heard God's call: wealth-y and poor, pow-er-ful, low-ly,
on this day, hear-ing the Word, shar-ing the Ban-quet,
till life's end, trav-el-ing light, shar-ing the rich-es,



Je-sus' dis-ci-ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of-fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u-nit-ed in love,
car-ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to-gether grow.
to-gether we will come to our e-ter-nal home.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

All: Your love reaches to the heavens,

and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,

now and always. Amen.

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.

Preface

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, Almighty and Merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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: 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.

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.

Lord's Prayer

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

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 aisle, receive the bread from the pastor and move to the chalice. Return by way of the left hand aisle as you return to your seat.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us
for service, and send us out to embody your
good news of liberation and healing for the sake
of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen

BLESSING

Minister: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always.

All: Amen.

SONG

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Refrain

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Minister: | Rev. Steven C. Claycomb |
| Keyboard: | Gail Derrer |
| Lector: | Sue Butz |
| Lay Assistant: | Lisa Weiss |
| Greeters: | Doug & Laura Young |
| Choir Director: | Tassy Gilbert |
| Accompanist: | Gail Derrer |
| Announcements: | Amanda Balas, Office Administrator |
| Videographer: | Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy |

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

Souper Bowl Sunday—Eagles-\$294.44, KC-\$138, Total=\$432.44 which will be matched by Thrivent and sent to CA Wildfire relief. Thanks to all who donated!

Community Meal—March 16th at 4:30pm, they will be serving ham, green beans, scalloped potatoes, applesauce and dessert. Please see Sue Butz if you would like to help!

Ash Wednesday service will be held on March 5th at 7pm in the church.

Coffee Hour: From now on coffee hour will only be held if someone has signed up for it on the board in the serving area. Please consider signing up to host, if you have never hosted coffee hour before please talk with Amanda.

Please note: if no one has signed up there will be **NO COFFEE HOUR**. Please check the bulletin every week to see if coffee hour is being hosted.

Genealogy recently completed oral history interviews with Don Paynter and Sandy Lee about their time attending Christ Hamilton. If you'd like to watch the interviews, they are on our YouTube channel and on our FaceBook page. A copy of these interviews will be saved in the Genealogy Room's database.

If you would like to do an interview about your time at Christ Hamilton please see Cathy Peechatka or email chulcgenealogy@gmail.com

Lent Begins! Wednesday March 5th with a 7pm Ash Wednesday service in the church. Every Wednesday after we will be holding our soup dinners and having the Holden Evening Prayer service in the Lighthouse beginning at 6:15pm.

Further Thought

In the final chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul helps people of faith understand the resurrection using a variety of images—seeds, physical and spiritual bodies, dusty and heavenly realms, old and new Adam. Ten days before beginning the season of Lent, the image of dust could invite the assembly into a Lenten practice of observing the dust in their own lives. While we mark ourselves with the cross on Ash Wednesday, we hear the words, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return,” drawn both from Genesis 3:19 and this section from 1 Corinthians.

Up to 50 percent of dust in our homes is made from dying skin cells that fall from our bodies, consistent reminders that we are in a state of decay and death. Paul is not placing the spirit above the body or the heavenly above earthly. Rather, the resurrection rings in our earth-bound, dusty bones, in the slow grind of our lives, in the overwhelmed moments, or in the places where death seems to be close at hand.

Pump House Pantry Donations

Food Items

Cereal

Canned vegetables and fruits (pop tops)

Noodles & pasta sauce (plastic jars)

Peanut butter & jelly (plastic jars)

Canned chicken, tuna, SPAM (pop tops)

Canned soup, stew, chili or beans (pop tops)

Apple sauce

Granola bars

Rice

Spices—Italian blend, Mexican blend, salt, pepper, powdered garlic/onion

Condiments—ketchup, mustard, mayo

Powdered milk

Cake mix and icing

Tea/Instant coffee

Hygiene

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Body wash

Hand soap

Shampoo/conditioner

Deodorant

Pads/Tampons

Miscellaneous

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Ziploc bags

New warm weather socks

Used paperbacks

NOTES

- For any canned good please get “pop tops” as much as possible, people don’t always have can openers
- Consider buying peanut butter & jelly, or a box of pasta & sauce, a cake mix & icing, pantries get a ton of noodles and PB but nothing to go with them
- Spices and condiments are a “luxury” item and are very appreciated!
- Please, NO donations in glass bottles or jars
- Please drop off any of the above items in the designated box in the Narthex or at the church office. If you have any questions or would like to help with the Pump House Pantry please see Amanda.