Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church 419 Bossardsville Road Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024



be with you.
As the Father has sent **me**,
so I send you."

John 20:21, 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.christhamilton.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. All are welcome here. 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.

Today's service: The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Altar flowers are given in celebration of Nora Snyder's baptism today, by her mom, dad and big sister Harper!

PRELUDE



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING ACTS 4:32-35

Reader: A reading from the 4th chapter of Acts.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Bells

SECOND READING 1 JOHN 1:1--2:2

Reader: A reading from the 1st chapter of First John.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 20:19-31

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.



¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.



Message



Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Sacrament of Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The Sponsors/Parent/s present the individual for baptism. I/We present Nora Snyder for baptism.

The pastor addresses the parents and/or sponsors:

Pastor: Called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Nora baptized into Christ?

Parents and sponsors: We do.

Pastor: As you bring Nora to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,

to bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,

to teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten

Commandments, to place in her hands the holy scriptures,

and to nurture her in faith and prayer,

so that she may learn to trust God,

to proclaim Christ through word and deed,

to care for others and the world God made,

and to work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Nora grow in the Christian faith and life? Parents and sponsors: We do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Nora and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

All: We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

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

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

All: He sends us to be disciples in the world, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: At this font, Holy God, we praise you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Pour out your Holy Spirit and breathe new life into all who are gathered here. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

We pray this through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

At this time family and friends are invited to come forward and gather around the family at the baptismal font.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the child's head, as the pastor says:

Pastor: Nora, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the child's head a second time: and of the Son,

Water is poured on the child's head a third time: and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. . . We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give Nora new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized child:

Sustain Nora with the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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.

All: Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.

Pastor: Nora, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: Amen.

Blessing of mother. Family gathered are invited to place a hand back/shoulder.

Pastor: The Lord God Almighty bring joy to Stephanie as the hope of eternal life shines forth upon children. May God graciously bless her so that as we now give thanks for the gift of **children** she may always remain united with them in thanksgiving, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing of father. Family gathered are invited to place a hand back/shoulder.

Pastor: May the Lord God Almighty, the giver of life both in heaven and on earth bless Mike, so that together with Stephanie they may follow Jesus and prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their children in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

WELCOME (A lighted candle is presented).

Pastor: Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.'

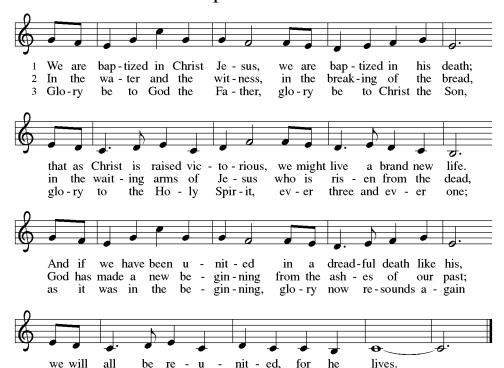
All: Let our lights so shine before others that we might do good works and glorify our God in Heaven.

Pastor: Let us welcome Nora, the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.

May God be with you and always bless you! Amen.

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



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Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

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Prayers

Assisting Minister: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain especially those we raise now in need of prayer God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

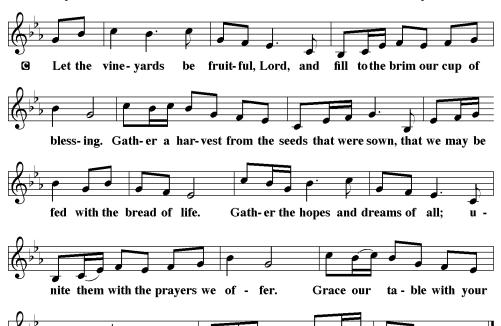
All: Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

All: Amen.

Offertory

Let the Vineyards



OFFERTORY PRAYER

pres - ence.

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Blessed are you,

All: Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness

you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service

and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made,

and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

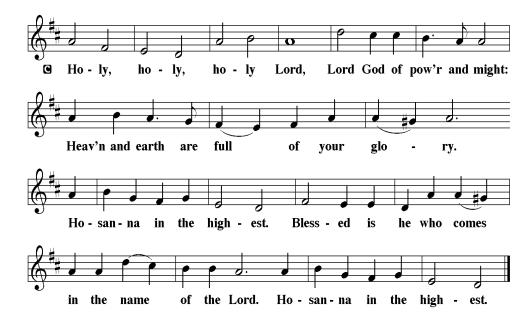
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everliving God.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

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:



Minister: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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,

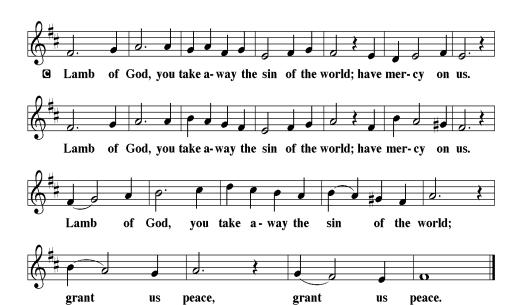
forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

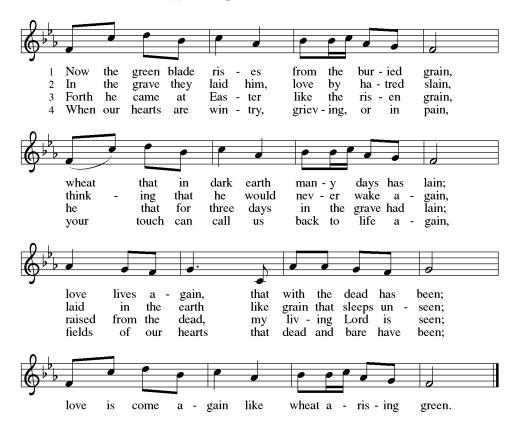
We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right hand side and receive the bread from the pastor and the wine from the assistant.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you. Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.



Now the Green Blade Rises



Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, @ Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

Just As I Am, without One Plea



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

All: Amen

Thine Is the Glory



Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb

Assisting Minister: Sue Butz

Reader: Bonnie Claycomb Keyboardist: Beth McElroy

Greeters: Rhonda and Bud Bonser

Choir Director Tassy Gilbert Accompanist Gail Derrer

Announcements Amanda Balas, Office Administrator Videographer: Steve Metzgar and Anson Cassidy

Welcome Visitors! If you are visiting Christ Hamilton for the first time please pick up one of our welcome packets where you are seated. We ask that you please fill out the contact card in the packet and place it in the basket. If you are interested in joining Christ Hamilton please contact the church office 570-992-4085 or chulcsts@gmail.com

LARGE PRINT bulletins are now available, please ask an usher if you would like one.

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer to the right of the altar after the service for any concerns.

Please Remember in Prayer: Sandy, Jim, Gloria, Jackie and Dumitru. If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.

Bulletin Deadlines: The deadline for information being added to the bulletin is Wednesday noon. Bulletins are printed by 10 a.m. THURSDAY mornings. The office is CLOSED on Friday and Saturday.

We welcome the newly baptized Nora today at Christ Hamilton and celebrate with her parents, Mike and Stephanie Snyder, big sister Harper and her family.

CHULC Trails! We are considering developing a trail system on the 40 acres behind the church. However, we would like to know if there is any interest in a project of this kind. Please talk to Amanda or John Balas if you think this would be a benefit to our church community.

Scam – Please be aware that Christ Hamilton and Pastor Steve will never ask you by text for money. Pastor has access to a discretionary fund if needs arise. If money is needed to be collected you will hear of it in person and it will be collected on Sunday mornings.

Fellowship Dinner will be meeting on April 12th at 6pm at the Sycamore Grille in Delaware Water Gap. Please call the church office to RSVP 570-992-4085

Coffee Hour hosts needed! Please sign up to host coffee hour in the months of April and May. We are also taking donations of baked goods that can be frozen and used when no one has signed up. Please note: If we do not have an interest in volunteering for this ministry just coffee will be served.

PATHWalk 2024 will be held on Sunday May 5th. Registration starts at 12:30 and the walk begins at 1:30pm and is a leisurely 3 mile walk around Stroudsburg. Sign ups and sponsor lists are available at coffee hour. PATH (Pocono Area Transitional Housing) is a non-profit organization that provides temporary housing and support services for families with young children who are experiencing a housing crisis.

DANIEL is coming to Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster! Lisa Weiss is gathering information and needs to have an idea of how many people would be interested in going to the show. Based on numbers, we may also need to reserve a bus so we don't know the final cost yet. A sign-up sheet is in the serving area at coffee hour. Please sign up if you are interested.

Help Us Grow! Please take a look at the "Help Us Grow" board outside the serving area. If you are able, please consider picking a flower and giving towards one of CHULC's yearly expenses. Flowers can be returned to the office with the noted donation via mail or in the offering plate on Sundays.

Monthly Meals we are looking for people, or groups of people, who would be willing to make a meal once a month for the people at "Street to Feet." Meals would need to feed between 30 and 40 people and be delivered anytime during the week. If you are interested in this ministry, please see Amanda or contact the church office.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all

