

January 12, 2025

9:30 AM

Worship Service

The Baptism of Christ



“You are my Son.”

CEDAR CHURCH

A Union Church since 1855

3419 Broadway

Allentown, PA 18104

610-395-6332

Email: cedarchurch@ptd.net

www.cedarchurchlv.com

Our Mission

Cedar Church extends a hand of welcome to all of God's children seeking a place of worship among persons dedicated to the love of Christ and his teachings.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Before The Service

*A selection of traditional & contemporary sacred music arrangements
played on the piano.*

Prelude *Marche Royale* Jean Baptiste Lully

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

*** Greeting**

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.*

C: Amen.

*** Gathering Hymn** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Tune: Regent Square all verses

- 1) Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious,
finding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.
- 2) To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.
- 3) Here renew your servants' vision, that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion,
strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.

***Call to Worship**

P: We are marked as God's beloved ones.

C: What have we done to deserve God's love.

P: God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

C: Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

P: God's love never vanishes from us.

C: Thanks be to God who is ever faithful to us.

P: Come, let us worship God!

***Opening Prayer**

LA: Let us pray:

C: God of glory, your promises have been answered and continue to be answered by the Beloved, Jesus of Nazareth. Open our hearts to receive this, your greatest gift of love, again today. As we hear your voice claim Jesus as your holy child, remind us that we too are claimed as children of God. Fill our hearts with joy as we continue to celebrate the promises fulfilled in Jesus. Amen.

***Invitation to Confession**

P: Knowing of God's great love for us we can confess our sins assured of God's love and forgiveness.

***Prayer of Confession**

P: God with us. You come to your people in a manger, at the temple, and on a riverbank. During your earthly ministry, you inhabited everyday spaces: the places where your people went to tend to their livelihood, to pray, and to collect water.

C: Too often, we imagine you only in these traditional biblical scenes, instead of looking for you in our everyday lives: in our workplaces, our places of worship, and our homes. Forgive us. Open our hearts, eyes, and ears to encounter you today. Ready our hearts to shout "Glory," when we hear your voice and see your work in our lives. Too often, we acknowledge your holy identity, but we forget that we share in your baptism. Forgive us. Remind us again this day that we are claimed as God's children and are sent to show the love and justice we see in you. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

***Assurance of Pardon**

P: God's voice publicly claims Jesus as "my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

C: We too are called by God: God knows us, loves us, claims and names us. We are beloved and empowered! Thanks be to God!

*Canticle of Praise

S 159



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in
praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

(Please be seated.)

Baptism

P: 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.



Parents, Jack and Melissa Mesce and Godparents, Nikolai Sherer and Francine Mesce and I present Lilliann Francis Mesce to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Hymn *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* Tune: Stuttgart

- 1) Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign:
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.
- 2) Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

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

Parents and Godparents: I do.

*P: As you bring **Lilliann** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.*

*Do you promise to help **Lilliann** grow in the Christian faith and life?*

Parents and Sponsors: I do.

Profession of Faith

P: Dear friends, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: I do.

(Please rise in body or spirit.)

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

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

C: I renounce them.

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

C: I renounce them.

Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Baptism

*P: **Lilliann Francis Mesce**, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Sustain **Lilliann Francis Mesce** 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. **Amen.***

*P: **Lilliann Francis Mesce**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

C: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia.

Welcome

*P: Lilliann Francis Mesce, let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
Let us welcome the newly baptized.*

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Hymn *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* Tune: Stuttgart

3) Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

4) Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

Scriptures (*Scripture Verses are NSRV unless otherwise stated*)

The Psalm

Psalm 29, NIV



Psalm 29 draws attention to the creative power of God's voice and reminds us that God's word has the power to shape all of creation. As we read it in concert with the description of Jesus' baptism, we are struck again with the image of the fire and the Holy Spirit, and we are reminded of the power of the words from heaven to remake all of creation through the shaping of Jesus' ministry.

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;
worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.**
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.
- ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;
the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as King for ever.**
- ¹¹ The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace.

The Epistle Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

As we read this passage alongside the account of the baptism of Jesus, we realize that it was not the power of the water, nor the power of John the baptizer's words, but the power of the Holy Spirit with us that changes the focus of our lives.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

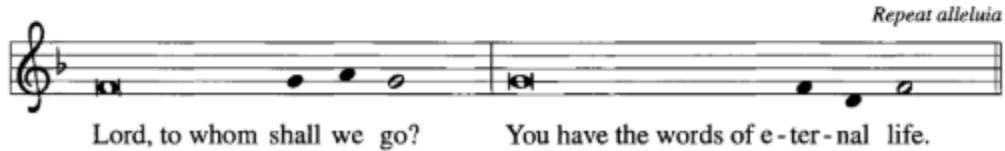
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, NIV

The Gospel of Luke begins with the intertwined lives and extraordinary births of John the Baptist and Jesus the Christ. Our narrative picks up at the point that the crowds confuse John's role and wonder whether he might be the Christ. As a response, he declares his expectation of someone greater than him, whose shoes he is unworthy to untie.

*Gospel Acclamation



The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.



P: Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

P: This is the good news.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Children's Time

(Children ages 3 to 11 are now dismissed for Children's Church and can be picked up in Room 102 after the service.)

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our brother and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sermon

"Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy."

Abraham Joshua Heschel

Reaffirmation of Baptism

P: We gather today to worship and praise the God of awe and majesty. We come to encounter the God who knows us each by name and who walks with us in intimate love. We come to reaffirm the blessing we have received through our baptism. In baptism, we remember God's saving actions throughout history, and we have the opportunity to answer yes as God whispers our names. As a community of God, we gather today at the waters of baptism to reaffirm our commitment to Christ and to experience anew the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Reaffirmation of **Baptism**



Affirmation of Faith

P: Do you believe in God?

C: I believe in God.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

C: Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

The congregation is invited to come to the font to reaffirm their baptism.

Hymn of the Day *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

- MORECAMBE Verses 1, 3, 5

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King,
4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
all, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies;
I see thy cross - there teach my heart to cling;
to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find.
teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

Prayers of Intercession

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

(A brief silence.)

LA: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the newly baptized and those who reaffirm their baptism . God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

LA: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

LA: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery especially those on our prayer list. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

Hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

***The Lord's Prayer**

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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.)

*** Offertory**

P: This morning, we hear the story of the baptism of Jesus and remember our own baptism. God has called us to this place, to this church, to be the Body of Christ in the world today. Our gifts make this a bold and courageous and compassionate church.

Anthem: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

(Jesus, the Light of the World) Charles Wesley, adapt. George Elderkin

***Doxology** *(Spoken)*

**C: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

P: Let us pray

C: Through the power of your Spirit, bless these gifts that they might be used to the glory of your name. Seal us in our baptismal waters to put them to faithful work that they might support the missions of our calling. This we pray in your abundant name. Amen.

*** Blessing**

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn** *Let all Things Now Living* ASH GROVE all verses

2. Ah, _____ O

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2. His law he en - forc - es the stars in their cours - es and

sun in its or - bit, o - be - dient - ly shine. Ah, _____

God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who fash - ioned and
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the hills and the

the deeps of the o - cean pro -

made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who guides us and leads to the
 moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the deeps of the o - cean pro -

WORDS: Katherine F. Davis, 1914

ASH GROVE

claim him di - vine. Re - joice, re -

end of our days. His ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be -
claim him di - vine. We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

joice! — With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us

raise. Ah,

night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is
raise, till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
giv - ing: to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

We carry the light of Christ into the world.

***Sung Benediction:**

**C: God be with you till we meet again.
By his counsels' guide uphold you,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Dismissal:**

LA: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Trumpet Tune* Jean Josphe Mouret

The Ministers

All the People

Music Director

David Beck

Volunteers

Lay Assistance

Kim Henning

Children's Church

Jeannine & Ashley Leonard

Videographer & Claxton

Phil Horlacher

Pastor

Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman (cell: 610-762-9391)

Sexton

Don Hinderliter

Altar Guild

Sandra Diacogiannis Janine Barnaby

Church Secretary

Jenny Simmons

(Office Hrs. Tue-Wed-Thu 8am-4pm)

Ushers

2024 Cedar Advisory Board (CAB)

President: Chris Ellis, Vice President: Tammy Boyer,

Treasurer: Phil Horlacher, Assistant Treasurer: Sue Phillips,

Secretary: Jeannine Leonard, Assistant Secretary: Janine Barnaby,

Members: Zach Borger, Carol Haines, Ron Kozza, Cory Lentz, Maggie Gabel and
Pastor Candi Cain-Borgman

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by Roberta Brown in honor of my family and Cindy Borger birthday.

Given by Betty Derhammer in loving memory of Paul Derhammer.

CARNATION

Given by Cedar Church in honor of Lilliann Mesce Baptism

BULLETIN:

Given by Dale Clauser in loving memory of his wife Nancy Clauser.

Given by Phyllis Shellhammer in memory of my son David F. Shellhammer.

DEVOTIONALS:

Given by The Estate of Paul and Madlyn Haines in memory of departed loved ones.

YOUTH BULLETIN:

Given by Sandra Diacogiannis in honor of son, Drew & grandchildren, Dylan & Devyn

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Short and Long Term Illness

Daniel McFadden, Tom Bartman, Malachi Calderon, Elaine, Nancy, Barbara Miller, Joanne McNabb, Lorenzo Coco Jr., Craig and Marlene Sebring, Skip Phillips, Brandon Mace, Garnett, John Nuttall, John Winterburn, Amy Beck, Christa, Eric Wakoli, Patti, George Minnich, Marlene Frey, Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Sara Beth, Amanda & Jessie, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry, Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Jean Robertson, Megan, Kim Bastian, Pauline Gaal, Haisley Grim, Howard & Nancy, Cassie Mace, Brooke Weber, Members of our Recovery Groups, The Family of Richard Ochs

Cedar's Homebound Members

Mary Fillman, Albert and Joan Plarr, Barbara Snyder, Betty Brunner, Frances Betz, Fred & Ardella, Jeanette Fry, Linda Ellis, Nancy Erdman, Anna Mae Derhammer William Dorney, Bernice Rabenold, Marty & Rosanne Ritter, Lu Vogle, Shirley McNabb, Anna Mae Derhammer, Christine Wagner, Sharon Acampora and Gail Ruth.

**To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the church office.
(Hospitalization codes: 203 and 404)**

Note: The Lehigh Valley and Saint Luke's Hospital Lists are not kept up to date and can be difficult to navigate. So, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Candi if you or a family member is hospitalized.

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Children's Church		002
Church Social	10:30am	Social Hall, Kitchen

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

C.A.B. MEETING	7:00pm	100
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Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Young Adult Group	6:00pm	002
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Sunday, January 19, 2025

Sunday Worship Service	9:30am	Sanctuary
Children's Church		102

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Property Committee	7:00pm	100
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Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Young Adult Group	6:00pm	002
Book Club 10:30am		Social Hall

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Staff Support	6:00pm	002
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Inclement Weather Notification

For church closings and announcements, please check our **Facebook page** or **WFMZ 69 News**.

Note: The church office and group activities follow the **Parkland School District's closing policy**

February 9th



**We need
Soup Makers
and
Soup Buyers**

SOUP MAKERS

Please sign up and get your containers at church. If you have any questions please speak to Phyllis or Tammy

SOUP BUYERS

Soup will be sold after Worship Service in the Social hall on February 9th at \$6.00 per quart.



Short and Long Term Illness

Daniel McFadden, Tom Bartman,
Malachi Calderon, Elaine, Nancy, Barbara Miller,
Joanne McNabb, Lorenzo Coco Jr.,
Craig and Marlene Sebring,
Skip Phillips, Brandon Mace, Garnett,
John Nuttall, John Winterburn,
Amy Beck, Christa, Eric Wakoli,
Patti, George Minnich, Marlene Frey,
Andy Wheeler, Kourtney, Sara Beth,
Amanda & Jessie, Cindy Polchik, Danielle, Barry,
Joan Carter, Dale Erdman, Jean Robertson,
Megan, Kim Bastian, Pauline Gaal,
Haisley Grim, Howard & Nancy,
Cassie Mace, Brooke Weber,
Members of our Recovery Groups,
The Family of Richard Ochs and
Cedar's Homebound Members
Mary Fillman, Albert and Joan Plarr,
Barbara Snyder, Betty Brunner,
Frances Betz, Fred & Ardella, Jeanette Fry,
Linda Ellis, Nancy Erdman,
Anna Mae Derhammer
William Dorney, Bernice Rabenold,
Marty & Rosanne Ritter, Lu Vogle,
Shirley McNabb, Anna Mae Derhammer,
Christine Wagner, Sharon Acampora and Gail Ruth.