

Ephraim Moravian Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost/Sacrament of Baptism
August 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Order of Service

“Andante” – from Felix Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto

Welcome & Announcements

“Christ Be In Your Senses” - Traditional Hymn

Call to Worship: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who reverence Him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him. Psalm 34: 1 - 8

The Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn: “An Infant We Present to Thee”

An infant we present to thee as thy redeemed property
And thee most fervently entreat thyself this child to consecrate
By baptism, and its soul to bless, out of the fullness of thy grace.

It is written in the Gospel that our Lord Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted baptism as the visible means of entry into the new covenant. Baptism is a gift of God. In this sacrament, through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ, are cleansed by his saving work and enter into the fellowship of the church. Our children share with us in the benefits of our Lord’s redeeming work, through the faith of parents and of the Church.

For the promise is to us and our children.

Sincerely believing that our Lord Jesus Christ loves Vivienne, that he is ready to receive her, and to give her the blessing of eternal life, let us pray. O Father of all, we praise you for the joy and blessing that children bring into the home and into the world. Grant that Katie and Zachary may find blessing in their ministry of love.

Heavenly Father, hear us.

O Friend of little children, keep, guard, and bless Vivienne; by the guidance of your Spirit may she grow in strength, and in beauty of character.

Jesus, Savior, hear us.

Katie and Zachary, do you promise to lead Vivienne, through your prayer, instruction, and example, toward that time when she can, by grace, confirm her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

We do.

Ephraim Moravian Church, do you welcome Vivienne into the fellowship of this congregation?

We do.

You who are baptized into Christ Jesus, how were you baptized?

Into his death.

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

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

Vivienne, the Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus Love Me"

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.

Refrain: *Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me,
 Yes, Jesus loves me, the bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago
Taking children on his knee, saying 'let them come to me.' *(Refrain)*

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. *(Refrain)*

(Stanzas 2 - 3 from the United Methodist Hymnal, 1989, words by David Rutherford McGuire)

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (Hymn #494, v.1)

*Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the things you love and do what you would do. Amen*

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2

Reflection

“Take My Life That It May Be” – Traditional Hymn

Sermon

Benediction

Variations on “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” – by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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Reflection: “A Way to Imitate God” by Barbara Axelson

Jesus loved and loves the little children. We learn that early and we must remember it. As the sacrament of baptism recognizes a soul’s relationship with God, the church as a whole is a participant. When we answer the question to the congregation as to whether we welcome a newly baptized person into the fellowship, it is not merely a rote response.

All new believers, all little children, are strongly connected to the fellowship and it is every person’s responsibility to treat such persons with care and love.

Paul tells us to give grace to those who hear us. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving, and thereby become imitators of God. Look in the mirror and ask yourself if you are imitating God. The answer may enlighten you to do things you had long forgotten or glossed over. The answer may be sobering, or it might just be that you are doing your best and are now encouraged to “keep on keeping on.” Whichever is the case, be assured that Christ loved us (all of us) and gave himself up for us. That is a worthy goal and each and every baptism we witness reminds us that we are part of an army of God’s people.

March on! Amen.

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Pastor.....Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
Music Director.....Colin Welford
Lay Reader.....Linda Carey
Musical Guests....Marcia Ellis

