

HEIDELBERG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
251 PERKIOMEN AVENUE, SCHWENKSVILLE, PA 19473
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - HOLY BAPTISM
SERVICE CONDUCTED ON FACEBOOK LIVE & IN-PERSON WORSHIP
JANUARY 22, 2023

Today's Thought:

"It never cost a disciple anything to follow Jesus; to talk about cost when you are in love with anyone is an insult." ~ Oswald Chambers

Centering Words:

Light shines. Light calls. Light guides our way. Focus on the light of Christ; answer the call and follow where Christ leads.

** = Stand in Body or Spirit*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Ringing the Bell

10:30am

Welcome

Pastor Adrian

Prelude

Meditation on "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Mary Elizabeth Campbell
Guest Organist

Call to Worship

Pastor Adrian

L: Christ is our light, our way in the dark.

P: Come to the light of Christ.

L: Christ calls us here, to worship and to pray.

P: Come and answer Christ's call.

L: Christ leads us forth, to teach and heal.

P: Come and worship our God!

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Adrian

* Opening Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

#237

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word! What more can God say than to you has been said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed, for I am your God, and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of woe over you shall not flow; for I will be near you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply: the flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"The souls that on Jesus have leaned for repose I will not, I will not desert to their foes; those souls, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

* Call to Confession

Pastor Adrian

Let us pause here to confess the sins that have kept us from recognizing and enjoying God's presence.

Confident in God's grace and steadfast love, let us confess our sins before God and one another ...

* Prayer of Confession – Silent Prayer

God of our light and our salvation, sometimes we prefer to live in darkness, embracing the safety and anonymity of the shadows; sometimes we delight in our divisions, believing we are better than others; sometimes the yoke of our calling feels too heavy, and we seek to slip out from under the bar across our shoulders. Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful blindness and deafness to the Way. Help us know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our joy and our wonder, our very life. Hear us as we cry aloud in our need. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen. [Silent Prayer]

* Words of Assurance

The light of God's love shines into the dark places of our world, healing its brokenness, and bringing hope to places of despair. The light of God's love makes us a forgiven people. Hear the Good News: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Hymn of Praise

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

#167

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome Alexandra Yocca to the waters of baptism today. Alexandra is the daughter of Sara and Kevin Yocca. Alexandra's Godparents are Diane and Justin Boehret.

Please follow along with the service ...

Invitation

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

I present *Alexandra Yocca* for baptism.

Welcome

L: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might bless them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

P: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

L: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

L: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

The Sacrament of Baptism

(Questions for the parents and Godparents)

Minister: Sara and Kevin - Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Will you encourage Alex to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents & Godparents: We will, with God's help.

Minister: Will you teach Alex that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents & Godparents: We will, with God's help.

Minister: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents & Godparents: We will, with God's help.

Minister: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Alex in the Christian faith, to help her to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism?

Parents & Godparents: We will, with God's help.

(Question for the congregation)

Minister to Congregation: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Alex about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God:

L: Do you believe in God?

P: I believe in God.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: I believe in Jesus Christ.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

Minister: *Let us pray:* We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water {water is poured}. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in Alex baptized this day that she may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Alexandra Yocca, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Alex, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion. Amen.

Prayer for the Baptized

Minister: *Let us pray for Alex baptized today:* Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless Alex this newly baptized Child of God. May she be filled with joy; may she never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless Sara and Kevin, her parents and Diane and Justin, her Godparents. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Alex. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Hymn "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (Verses, 1,3,4) #306

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign, with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

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.

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.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination Liturgist
Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Lessons (NRSV) Liturgist
Isaiah 9:1-4 Pew Bible pg#555
Psalm 27: 1, 4-9 Pew Bible pg#437

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Lesson (NRSV) Pastor Adrian
Matthew 4:12-23 Pew Bible pg#785

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gloria Patri #36
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon "Let the Adventure Begin" Rev. Adrian Tierson

Hymn "Softly and Tenderly" #303
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; patient and loving, he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home, ye who are weary come home; earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling - calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we linger when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we wait, then, and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? Come home, come home, ye who are weary come home; earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling - calling, "O sinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me; though we have sinned he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Come home, come home, ye who are weary come home; earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling - calling, "O sinner, come home!"

SHARING FAITH & LIFE

Joys, Concerns & Announcements

Pastor Adrian

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Adrian

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Hymn

"Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place"

#S-26

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face; Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Call to Offering

Pastor Adrian

Beside the lakeshore, long ago, Jesus called to his disciples: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people!" Jesus calls to us today: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." The ministry begun by the Sea of Galilee continues in our day when we proclaim the good news of God's love. Let us give with joy as we follow Jesus.

* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

O God, we have seen your glory, felt the touch of your love, and felt your presence with us. With joyful hearts, we offer you our gifts. Having heard your call, we offer you our lives and our service. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD

* Closing Hymn

"Jesus Call Us, O'er the Tumult"

#304

Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his voice still calls us, saying, "Christian, follow me."

As of old, Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us; by your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call, give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

* Benediction

Pastor Adrian

* Final Response

"First Song of Isaiah"

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense and he will be my Savior.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
Arrangements	William Rubery	William Rubery
Head Usher	Jeff Wynn	Jeff Wynn
Acolyte	Tyler McDowell	Ethan Beideman
Liturgist	Ron Sivick	Jeanette Kriebel
Greeters	Connie Deery	Tina Richards
Technology	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert	Doug MacWade & Brian Pippert
	John Godfrey	John Godfrey
Nursery Care	Vicki Bosler	Stephanie Hapenovich

Welcome to Heidelberg! Whatever your past, whatever your religious background, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome. Join us for a spiritual journey where God is still speaking. Enter as a guest, depart as a friend.

Today – We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Next Sunday - Joyful Noise Collection Sunday - what is collected in the container in the Narthex goes towards our "Small Projects" fund. Thank you for contributing!

Sunday School – Classes are held every other Sunday at 9:30am. Classes will be held again Sunday, January 29th.

NEW Adult Sunday School Class – Beginning next Sunday, January 29th Art Bustard will be leading adult Sunday School focusing on the life of St. Paul. The course will be a combination video travelogue and discussion on St. Paul's life, with background information on the history and geography of the areas in which St. Paul traveled. The video curriculum is presented by Dr. Paul Maier, formerly of Western Michigan University and is called "The Odyssey of St. Paul". It is an eight-part series.

New Members – Are you interested in making Heidelberg UCC your church home? If so, please reach out to Pastor Adrian in the next few weeks. There will be a new member luncheon planned in the coming weeks and the reception of new members during the Lenten season.

Nursery Care – The Nursery is staffed every Sunday during morning worship.

Confirmation – The next class will be Sunday, February 5th 9:30-10:15am.

Did You Know? – Individual Hearing Aid Devices are available from the head usher.

Did You Know? – Large Print Bulletins are available in the Narthex.

Ladies Lunch – Lunches are held on the 2nd Mondays of the month. The next lunch will be held Monday, February 13th at 12noon. See Diane McFarland to make your reservation.

Offering Envelopes – Unfortunately, our 2023 offering envelopes are delayed and are not expected to arrive until the end of January, or the beginning of February. In order to make sure your donations are credited properly, you can place your offering in any of the following envelopes:

- Any of your own left over 2022 envelopes
- The "My Offering" envelopes at the entrances
- A blank envelope

Please clearly mark your name on the outside of the envelope. If you have any questions, contact Penny Berger.

Heifer Luncheon - Please join us on Sunday, February 26th as Heidelberg UCC will once again hold the Heifer Luncheon as a means to help end hunger worldwide. Heifer International is working to eradicate world hunger by giving cows, goats, bees, bunnies, water buffalo and other food/income producing livestock to impoverished families around the world. Each recipient agrees to pass on the gift to another needy family. **We are excited to announce that this is the 40th year that Heidelberg UCC has been involved with this incredible mission!** The BOCE is thrilled to say that we will be holding this event IN PERSON! No need to RSVP, just bring your appetites and meet us downstairs in fellowship hall after the worship service. Our very own "Tween" Sunday School/Confirmation students will have beverages, sandwiches, veggies and desserts waiting for you. Monetary donations to support Heifer International will be accepted at the luncheon.

In order to help make this event a success, we are looking for your help with food donations. Please see the below link for a Sign-up Genius with a variety of items in need. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Matt McDowell or any member of the BOCE.

Heifer Luncheon Donation Request: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849A5AF28A6FF2-heifer>

Heifer fun fact...Did you know that "each family who receives a Heifer gift becomes a donor as they pass on these gifts to other families in need!" It is the gift that keeps on giving!!! Now, how about a riddle? "Which came first - the chicken or the egg? According to the Bible (Genesis 1:20), the chicken. Heifer agrees, usually applying chicks to families who may not have equipment to incubate hatching eggs."

Online Donations – If you would like to make a one-time or recurring donation to the ministry of Heidelberg UCC, we have a simple way to do that by credit/debit card or by connecting your PayPal account right through Facebook. Just click the "Donate" button at the top right of our Facebook Page and follow the very easy steps. Thank you for your support and generosity.

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Raise Right – You can purchase gift cards from your favorite brands to use for your daily purchases and it supports our church and ministry. See Eleanor Risell for more information.

Prayer Requests – please e-mail the church office with any prayer concerns and we will keep our prayer list updated.