

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

Powell Cross

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and are joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember with joy our own baptism as we celebrate this sacrament.

Powell Cross

On behalf of the Session, I present Alice Graham Cross, daughter of Wesley and Emily Cross, to receive the sacrament of baptism.

QUESTIONS TO PARENTS AND CONGREGATION

Wesley & Emily do you desire that Alice be baptized? **WE DO**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **WE DO**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **WE DO**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **WE WILL**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to Alice? **WE DO**

Minister to Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Alice by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of her church? **WE DO**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA)

We believe God acts by the Spirit in baptism: calling us by name to be his, cleansing us from corruption, giving us new life, setting us in the fellowship of believers. Baptism reminds us that God loves us long before we can love God and that faith and repentance are necessary as our response to God's love. Though we are baptized but once our response should continue and deepen throughout life. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Rev. Dayton Wilson

Minister

We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. You led Israel out of slavery through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the Promised Land. We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of his death and resurrection, you set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing rebirth. We praise you that in baptism you give us your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth.

Congregation

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon Alice, upon us, and upon this water that this font may be your womb of new birth. Strengthen us all to serve you with joy until that day when you make all things new. Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Rev. Dayton Wilson

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Rev. Dayton Wilson

Defend, O Lord, your servant Alice with your heavenly grace, that she may continue to be yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until she comes to your everlasting kingdom, Amen.

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

WELCOME

Powell Cross

Through baptism, God has affirmed Alice as a member of this community of faith and has received her into the one holy catholic and apostolic church. I charge you, the people of this congregation, friends, and family, to love and support Wesley & Emily assisting them in the nurturing of Alice.

CONGREGATION

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Alice into Christ's church, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you; Wesley & Emily, and we promise to share the good news of the gospel with Alice.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 188
(Words are on the back of the bulletin)

"Jesus Loves Me"

Bradbury

188 Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long. They are weak, but he is strong,
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Alice Graham Cross

ELIZABETHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY - April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

Gathering Around the Word

United in ministry by the power of God's Holy Spirit, we welcome you to worship! May the Spirit of God be felt in our shared experience and by being together as people of God united by His eternal love for us.

Readings from Scriptures:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

The promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls. (Acts 2:39).

Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one. The great theologian Karl Barth said that its opening two lines were a summary of all that he had learned. The composer formed the refrain from those lines when creating this universally used tune.