



## The Sacrament of Baptism

**Cecilia Margaret McCrory**

March 9, 2025



132 W. Beaver Avenue, State College, PA 16801

## Words of Gathering

## Words of Presentation

Prayer

Rev. Robert Stauffacher

\*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Question to the Congregation**

Jamie Bauman

Our Lord Jesus Christ orders us to teach those who are baptized. Do you, the people of the church, promise to tell Cecilia Margaret McCrory the good news of the gospel, to help her know all that Christ commands, and, by your fellowship, to strengthen her family ties with the household of God? Please answer, "We do."

Congregation: **We do.**

## **Question to the Children**

Lincoln Bauman

Do we, the children of State College Presbyterian Church, promise to be Cecilia's siblings in Christ as she grows up in our church family, showing them God's love as we learn together, play together, grow together, and worship together? Please answer, "We do."

Children: **We do.**

## **The Baptism**

### **Words of Charge**

#### **Congregational Response**

*See what love God has given  
That we should be called Children of God,  
See what love God has given  
That we should be called Children of God,  
Children of God and so we are.*

*People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.*

—Mark 10:13-16

\*The congregation is invited to rise.

# The Sacrament of Baptism

Since water was such a precious and scarce commodity in the Middle East, it is easy to see how frequently it became a symbol of life, death, and hope for many religious ceremonies. Such was the case for Christians.

Baptism can be performed by immersing a person in water, or by pouring or sprinkling water on one's head. It can be done in a stream or pool, or by using a bowl or a font. More and more, throughout the ecumenical Christian world baptism is mutually honored no matter what the method.

The method may vary but the symbolism remains the same; it is by the grace of Jesus Christ that our sins are forgiven (washed away); and, as the apostle Paul says, "If we have been buried (immersed) with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be raised (lifted) in a resurrection like his." Baptism reminds us that we can have a living relationship with Christ, by which we can become "new creatures" in Him (reborn spiritually). All those who are baptized are welcomed into "the household of God" (the church).

From the moment of our birth, sin (rebellion against and separation from God) is part of our nature. While the physical act of baptism, in and of itself, does not cleanse, it is a firm reminder that God's grace in Jesus Christ is able to conquer sin and redeem and cleanse our sinful nature. Therefore, it is never too early to baptize our children and to claim by the vows taken by their parents the promise that God can and does cleanse us, save us, and make us new. In adolescence, we invite young people to confirm the vow taken by their parents and to pledge their full participation in the community of faith.

As those who ourselves have been baptized in the name of the God who created us, Jesus who redeemed us, and the Spirit who sustains us, we join together in welcoming, by her baptism, Cecilia McCrory into the life and ministry of the Risen Christ.