



SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

Living into God's Story

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Spotlight on Mission

Harvest USA

Call to Worship

That's My King – Kids Choir

Song

#322 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Confession of Sin

Affirmation of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 5:21

Song

He Will Hold Me Fast

Offertory

Blessing and Glory

Sacrament of Baptism

Almarie Salvato

Prayers of the People

Paul Reader

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Song

God Is For Us

New Testament

Romans 8:31-39 – Sonja Reader

Message

Rev. Keith Fink

A Story Continued in Treachery

Genesis 37:12-36

WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

Song

#50 – This Is My Father's World

Benediction

Postlude

Baptism in the EPC

What we do not believe about infant baptism:

- 1) We do not believe it confers salvation.
- 2) We do not believe it is the same thing as dedication.

What we *do* believe about baptism:

- 1) We believe it is ordained by Jesus.
- 2) We believe it is a sign and a seal of the Covenant of Grace for believers and their children. As a sign it proclaims God's forgiveness and our redemption in Jesus Christ. As a seal, God marks us as adopted children of our heavenly Father.
- 3) We believe that the power in baptism does not reside in those being baptized, nor in the person administering baptism but rather in the work of God.

What we understand about those belonging to Jesus:

We understand that followers of Jesus from different faith traditions appeal to Scripture to defend their opinions about those to whom baptism should be applied, and the mode of baptism. We, as well, are informed by the Scriptures and not on human tradition when we baptize infants. We see that God applied the Old Testament covenant sign to infant males (Gen. 17:11). We see how Peter on the day of Pentecost spoke to those who believed saying: "For the promise is for you and for your children... (Acts 2:39)."

Baptism Questions

To the parents

- 1) Do you acknowledge *Almarie's* need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Do you claim God's covenant promises and benefits for *Almarie* and by faith do you look to the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your child as you do your own?
- 3) Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and do you promise by relying on God's power and grace through the Holy Spirit to live an exemplary life before your child?
- 4) Do you commit yourself to pray with and for your child, to teach your child the Scriptures and the great articles of our faith Jesus Christ?
- 5) Do you promise to use every means provided by God, including faithful participation in the life of the Church, to bring your child up in the loving discipline of the Lord?

To the congregation

- 1) Do you, the members of this congregation, acting for yourselves and on behalf of the whole Body of Christ, assume responsibility with these parents for the spiritual nurture of this child?
- 2) Do you commit yourself to set a godly example before this child, to provide as far as you are able, all that is necessary to the end that this child may one day confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

Living into God's Story
A Story Continued in Treachery
Genesis 37:12-36

Question: How should our faith inform the trouble we know in life?

1. A Journey without an End (vs. 12-17)

2. A Journey that leads to Evil (vs.18-24)

3. A Journey towards Slavery in Egypt (vs. 25-36)

Point to Ponder: Is there any truth from my faith that can inform me in the darkest times of my life? Or have I just limited my faith's relevance to only the good times of life?

Next Week: Next Sunday we will continue our sermon series *Living into God's Story* by considering **Genesis 38:1-30** 'A Story Enduring through Sordid Details.'

