

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Worship This Week July 13, 2025

KID'S MESSAGE – *Invite kids to sit around the shallow end with feet in the water, ready to jump in. Wear food barrel pack. Ask kids if they know what it is. Describe what it's used for. The important thing is that (like a life jacket) it won't sink. I trust that when I put food in here, it will be safe if my canoe gets filled with water. Imagine this food barrel is Jesus and his church. Everything inside is safe and dry. And it won't sink.*

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 – “I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. [the church will never die].” When I say “church” I’m not talking about buildings. The church is people who believe in Jesus. If we were to go back in time and stop anywhere we could always find the church. And if we traveled into the future, same thing.

Now if the barrel is the church, imagine the swimming pool as the world outside the church. Check out the water. Sometimes it's cold. Sometimes wavey. Sometimes you can't see the bottom and if you can it's not exactly clear. It can also be dangerous, so like the world we have to be careful.

Let's test it out. Open the barrel and get kids to grab something sinkable from inside. Ask them to toss the items into the pool then go and get them. Place them back in the barrel and seal it up.

Now put the barrel in the shallow end and invite the kids to try and sink it. Almost impossible – it would take every adult here to push it under water, but it would always come to the surface.

If we choose to be in Christ, we will not sink. Jesus will protect us. We will be able to handle anything.

MESSAGE/SCRIPTURE – Let's talk a little more about the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 – “God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.”

God granted Christ as ruler and king. Christ is the head of all things. Think about that. When we put Christ in our lives – our heads, hearts, actions, decisions etc – then we are the living church. The church is the Body of Christ. It shows up when He is in our heads and hearts. This is BEING in Christ.

Which leads to the second scripture.

Matthew 18:19-20 – “If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

This is what happens when people who are in Christ (and who have allowed Christ to be in them) work together. Not BEING in Christ but ACTING in Christ. Note that we will not always agree. But when we do, then something powerful happens. The Father will act. And the Spirit of Christ will be with us.

So we are getting a more complete picture of the church. Christ in our heads, hearts and minds and actions is one thing. The second thing is that people like that need to be working together. When Christians are working together, then Christ is with us in Spirit.

Something amazing happens. We start LIVING in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – “Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?”

“All of you together” is BEING and ACTING. Then something comes alive. Temple of God. Temple is a holy place. But it's not a building. We in this backyard right now are the “temple of God.” We are the church.” The Spirit of God lives in us.

If we were to meet in a park, would we be the church? Yes. If we met in a restaurant? Yes. If we met inside someone’s home on a cold winter day? Yes. And so on. Jesus is with us today in this backyard the same way He is with us in the church building.

So what do we do with that? We follow Christ's commands and go into the world. The Great Commission is to go, baptize and teach. The fact we're baptizing someone today is proof that a family is LIVING in Christ.

Every day, somewhere on this planet, someone becomes part of the church because they decide to believe in Jesus. There are many reasons why people decide. A big reason is because someone else tells them about Jesus as they think

about it they decide to follow Him. That is what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us to go into the world and tell others about Him. It is the most important thing we do in life. Amen.

BAPTISM VOWS – There are three kinds of baptism. One is where parents present their baby to be dedicated to the church. They declare their faith and promise to raise their child in the church. And then the infant is baptized by writing the sign of the cross with water on the baby's forehead. This is known as infant baptism. They're baptized but aren't a full member. The second method is when someone is a little older and can speak for themselves. The person professes their faith by answering questions and is accepted as a full member of the church. This is what we call believer baptism. I've done baptisms for believers before by doing the sign of water. The third way is when a believer is immersed in water, which is the way it was done in the Bible and the way many other churches do it today. That's what we are doing this morning.

Baptism this way as a believer is a bold statement. It's why it's done in public worship so that the rest of the church family can witness it and support them.

Luke 12:8 – "I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels.

Romans 10:9-10 NLT – "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

Baptism by a believer is an open declaration of faith.

(Ask believer to come forward.)

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, our power and strength?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, my power and strength.

Do you believe that all people are sinners and we cannot save ourselves?

I do.

Do you believe Christ lived a sinless life and died for you?

I believe.

Have you invited Jesus into your heart and mind?

I have.

Do you wish to be baptized in Christ?

I do.

(to other believers present) Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and help _____ with your words and actions, with love and in prayer, encouraging her to follow the way of Christ and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

We do.

Let's pray. We give You thanks, O gracious God, for the gift of Your Son, the forgiveness of sin and the presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, by the sign of this water, You cleanse us from sin through the death of Jesus Christ. We thank You that those who believe and confess are raised to new life and You graft them into His body, the church. Pour out Your Spirit upon this child of God, that she may have power to do Your will and continue forever as a servant of Christ to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory now and forever. Amen.

We enter the shallow end. Invite the kids to sit on the deck with their feet in the water.

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (immersion).

_____, you are now received by baptism into Christ's church. Welcome to the priesthood of all believers. May the Spirit of God dwell in you and uphold you, now and forever.

SING – This I believe (The Creed)