



***The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Word, Holy Baptism and Table
May 5, 2024***

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ

1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041

www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

“Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people.”

8:00 a.m. In person in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. In person in the Sanctuary and Livestream

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church

If there was any doubt that the national mood could need a dose of uplift, more evidence showed up in late January. On X (formerly known as Twitter), the account for Elmo, the red Muppet from Sesame Street, asked what seemed to be a simple, innocuous question.

“Elmo is just checking in! How is everybody doing?”

In thousands of responses, social media users let Elmo know that no, they were not doing too hot. Users began pouring out their hearts to Elmo:

- “I’m tired, Elmo,” said one user.
- “The world is burning around us, Elmo,” said another.
- “Elmo I’m depressed and broke,” one wrote.
- Others told Elmo that they were anxious about the 2024 election.
- “Each day the abyss we stare into grows a unique horror. one that was previously unfathomable in nature,” replied author Hanif Abdurraqib. “However, I did have a good grapefruit earlier, thanks for asking.”

“I don’t think anyone anticipated how deeply this particular question would resonate,” said Samantha Maltin, a marketing officer for the Sesame Workshop. Maltin believes that Elmo’s question provoked a lot of feelings because his character is rooted in the nostalgic memories of so many millennials.

After about nine thousand responses in about 24 hours, the account posted again. “Wow! Elmo is glad he asked!” it read. “Elmo learned it is important to ask a friend how they are doing.”

Praise

*The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.*

Music of Gathering ***If You Love Me and Offertory*** – John Ness Beck

Transcribed by Mark Thewes

One License #A727537

Chiming of the Trinity

*Hymn of Praise: No. 267 ***Come, Christians, Join to Sing*** – Madrid

One License #A727537

*Apostolic Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Song of Praise

This Is the Feast

One License #A727537



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the




hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

We Hear and Respond

From a Letter of St. John

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our

faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ¹

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 98

¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² **The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the
nations.**

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

⁴ **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together**

⁹ before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.²

*Gospel Acclamation: No. 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Converse

*The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

St. John 15:9-17

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another."³

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Homily

Dr. Williams – "PD"

You've Got a Friend

² *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 15:9–17.

Call to Confession

Corporate Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbour as ourselves. Indeed, because we have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have failed to be a people fully obedient to these commands; we have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love.

Gracious God, command what you will, and give what you command. Give us the love that you require of us. Fill our whole heart with love for you that becomes a whole hearted love for our neighbor. Amen.

A Word of Pardon

The scripture announces that this is a true saying and is to be universally accepted: Christ came into the world to save sinners. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Friends, in Christ you are forgiven. Know this and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

*Baptismal Hymn: No. 488

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry – Waterlife
One License #A727537

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Luca Michael Blase
son of
Issabella Taylor and Garrett Blase
Godparents: Jillian Rudolph and Joseph Fleming

The Institution

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Let us hear our Lord's command concerning the sacrament of holy baptism.

After he had risen victorious from the grave, Jesus said to his disciples:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20, NIV

In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers and their children.

The Scriptural Promise – Acts 2:38-39

Peter said to them,

"Repent, and be baptized

every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

so that your sins may be forgiven;

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is for you, for your children,

and for all who are far away,

everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

—Acts 2:38-39, NRSV

The Presentation

Having heard God's gracious promises to us in Christ,

do you desire that Luca Michael be baptized?

We do.

In presenting your child for baptism,

you announce your love for Jesus Christ,

your eagerness to participate in the life of Christ's body,

the church,
and your commitment to live as Christ's disciples in the world.
With joy, we celebrate together the gift of God's grace in
Christ.

Who presents Luca Michael for baptism?

We do.

The Renunciations

Since you are presenting this child for baptism,
we ask you, before God and his people,
to reject sin and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ.
Do you renounce all evil and powers in the world
that defy God's righteousness and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin
that separate you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

A Covenant Promise

Since you have presented Luca Michael for baptism,
we ask you the following questions before God and his people.

Do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and
Savior and affirm the promises of God made to you and your
children in his Word?

We do.

Do you promise to instruct Luca Michael
by word and example, with the help of the Christian
community,

in the truth of God's Word,
and in the way of salvation through Jesus Christ?

Do you promise to pray for *him* and teach *him* to pray?

Do you promise to nurture *him*

within the body of believers, as citizens of Christ's kingdom?

We do, God helping us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Act of Baptism

Blessing of the Children – *The Blessing Song*

Congregational Commitment & Welcome

Brothers and sisters,
we now receive Luca Michael into Christ's church.
I charge you to nurture and love *him*
and to assist *him* to be Christ's faithful disciple.

**With joy and thanksgiving,
we now welcome you into Christ's church;
for we are all one in Christ.**

**We promise to love, encourage, and support you
and to help you know and follow Christ.**

The Saints in Action

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings
Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by
scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory Music

The Gift of Love - Hopson
One License #A727537

The Senior Choir
Accompanist: Susan Hemperly

*Festival Doxology

Lasst Uns Erfruen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen!**

*Thanksgiving

*The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our bounden duty. . .we lift our voices in the song of heaven:

Seraphic Hymn

Alonzo P. Howeward 1838-1902

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of

5 Sa - ba-oth; Heav-en and earth are full, are full of the

8 ma-jes-ty of Thy Glo - ry, Ho - san - na, ho -

11 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

14 Bless-ed is he that com - eth in the name of the

17 Lord, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

21 high - est!

Consecration and Epiclesis

Our Savior's Prayer [using **debts** and **debtors**]

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Dismissal: No. 703

What a Friend We Have in Jesus – Converse

Following the Light of Christ into the World

***We go. . .
To share the light, faith and love of Jesus
with all people!***

*Sung Dismissal and Blessing

Now Unto Him Who Is Able

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling.

To make you stand in His presence blameless and with great joy.

To the only God our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.

Both now and forevermore, Amen.

**Give Him the glory, and the majesty, dominion, and authority.
Both now and forevermore, Amen!**

*Going Forth

Hymn of Fellowship – John Ness Beck,
Transcription by Mark Thewes

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MAY 5, 2024

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support
Kimberly Cornwell and Kelly Johannsen, Lay Ministers of Visitation
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education
Dan Tuck, Director of Music
Cynthia Hector, Children's Music Director
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

WELCOME VISITORS ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship!

WiFi PASSWORD: Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is being celebrated today with **Luca Michael Blase**, son of Issabella Taylor and Garrett Blase. Luca was born on June 10, 2023, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Godparents are Jillian Rudolph and Joseph Fleming.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS are located on a table in the vestibule at the Fellowship Hall side entrance and in the narthex of the church building. There is no charge for the booklets.

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE SPRING/MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER: For those that ordered Wendy's Flowers gift cards, they will be available for pickup after both worship services today. Please see Debra Brauner after the first service and Donna Fried after the second service. They will be stationed in the Social Room.

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES: The Game Night that was scheduled for this evening has been POSTPONED. A new date and time will be announced in an upcoming bulletin.

BLOOD DRIVE: *Save the date* of Tuesday, June 4th for a Blood Drive here at church. More details will be printed in an upcoming bulletin.

FIRST MONDAY MEAL: All are invited to join us Monday, May 6 for a delicious meal prepared and served by Tribe Nutrition. The menu is Swedish meatballs over noodles, green beans and flavored applesauce. *Take out* service will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. **OR** if you prefer to *dine in*, Pennsburg UCC will be serving spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert. Dinner is served there promptly at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!!

PRESENTATION SUNDAY – MAY 12 – MOTHER’S DAY: The Confirmation Class will present their “Faith Statements” at both services on Mother’s Day. Five the students at 8 a.m. and six of the students at the 10:30 a.m. service. All of their statements of faith will be published in the bulletin that day.

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED – SUNDAY, MAY 19: If you have been attending New Goshenhoppen Church and would like to become a member of the congregation, we will receive new members on Confirmation Sunday. Join in the celebration of a great day as we celebrate the Family of Faith. Speak with Pastor Dave about your interest.

CONFIRMATION AND HOLY COMMUNION – SUNDAY, MAY 19: There will be **ONE Service at 10:30 a.m.** on Sunday, May 19 as we welcome the Confirmation Class into the membership of New Goshenhoppen Church. The Class will answer the questions of Affirming the Promises made at their baptism. Their parents will serve them their first Holy Communion. The Class will then serve the congregation the Bread and Cup in the pews as was the tradition before COVID-19. All of the bread that morning will be gluten free, and the cup tray will have white grape juice and red wine. Following the service a reception will be held in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Elders.

SUMMER CAMP program brochures are available on-line and also can be found at the Fellowship Hall entrance and other church access areas. Early bird registration ends April 30th. Email any questions or concerns to camp@newgoshucc.org.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

In loving memory of Jean Fox

by Consistory

by Steve & Kathy Lentz

by Michele Kline

by Ted & Nonna Stankunas

by The Health & Welfare Committee

by Darryl & Deb Nester

In loving memory of Pauline Schuler

by Michele Kline

In loving memory of Edith Roeder

by Michele Kline

In loving memory of sister-in-law, Jean Fox

by Marlene & Richard Bieler

**In loving memory of our mother and nana,
Peggy Kastle's 100th birthday anniversary**

by the family

THE WORM PROJECT: *"Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, as Mosaic Mennonite Conference holds a Fun Walk to benefit The Worm Project at Franconia Community Park. No sign up. Along the walking path will be a number of fun, interactive, and educational stations for all ages. Come and stroll with family and friends and learn about our mission to treat children suffering from parasitic worms in the poorest countries around the world. Every dollar you donate will help treat 40 children. <http://www.wormproject.org> "*

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **Jean (Reitnauer) Fox** who passed to eternal life on April 26, 2024. Please keep her husband, Harold Fox, and children, Emily Moyer, Kevin Fox, Bennett Fox, Timothy Fox, and her extended family in your prayers.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS may pick up their arrangements in the vestibule outside the **Fellowship Hall Entrance** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Flowers will remain there until Wednesday, after which time they will be discarded.

BULLETINS are presented in honor of the Summer Camp Staff by Donna Fried.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of Paul Gehman by wife, Marlene & family.

THE FLOWERS BEHIND THE PULPIT are presented in loving memory of Willard S. Haas by the sons, daughters and their families.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (left) are presented in honor of Emma's "Gotcha Day" by Sandy & Sarah George.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (right) are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of Ingvar Danielson by the Dan-Dem-Do Gang.

OPERATING INCOME 4/28/24: Current & Benevolences \$2,607; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$698. Monthly EFT income \$5,060.

ATTENDANCE: 4/28/24 - 8:00 a.m. 49; 10:30 a.m. 98; Livestream (You Tube) 47. Sunday School 68. Organ Recital 112.

Above is the "Live" Concurrent Household Number - (Note: "number of households" is less than "number of people". If on average each household has two people watching, then our numbers are 2x the number of households that tuned in.)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: 61 giving units have responded. There is \$61,130 pledged. The amount received since 2023 is \$43,486 (including Capital Campaign memorial gifts.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$207,848.42
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$207,848.42
Year to Date Expenses	\$215,714.39
Special Projects BIM Income	\$34,426.00
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$97,521.18
Meadows Payback Income Year to Date	\$445.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (S) - Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class (CF)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Livestream (S) – Communion/Baptism
	11:30 a.m.	Move furniture in preparation of new carpeting
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Game Night (FH)
Mon.		Replace carpeting in vestibule/stairways
	6:00 p.m.	First Monday Meal
	6:30 p.m.	Christian Education Committee (Roberts' Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	9:30 a.m.	Quiet Days (various rooms)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower level classrooms)
Thurs.	6:30 p.m.	Constitution Review Meeting (Roberts' Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (FH)
Fri.	5:30 p.m.	Wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sat.	12:30 p.m.	Make Music UP Committee meeting (New Gosh Park)
	4:00 p.m.	Wedding of Craig Harpel and Katie Remaily
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (S) – Confirmation Faith Statements
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class (CF)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Livestream (S) – Confirmation Faith Statements

THANK YOU TO OUR SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

8:00 a.m. **Narthex:** Katie Stankunas
Roberts' Room: Terry Vincent
Elevator: Chris Weikel
Upper Narthex: Emy Moyer
Liturgist/Acolyte: Will Howe

10:30 a.m. **Narthex:** Terry Dworkin
Roberts' Room: Denise Fox
Elevator: Donna Fried
Upper Narthex: Steve Lentz
Liturgist/Acolyte: Sue Jacobs

MOTHER'S DAY CARNATION PROJECT

REMEMBER MOTHER OR GRANDMOTHER ON
MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor my loved one and also to encourage the good work of A Woman's Place in Doylestown, PA and Liberty Ministries in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

Kindly use a separate form for each carnation ordered.

This year, instead of delivering carnations to a health care facility, we wish for all women of New Goshenhoppen to be remembered. At the conclusion of both services, every woman is invited to come to the chancel railing and receive a carnation.

___ In Honor of _____

___ In Memory of _____

___ Presented by _____

Relationship to you: _____
(Indicate Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Sister, etc.)

Cost \$5.00 each.

Checks should be made payable to New Goshenhoppen Church. Kindly mark the envelope "Carnation Project." Please mail-in to the Church Office, place in the offering plate, or put in the black lock box located outside the Main Entrance door (at the elevator entrance).

Deadline for orders is Monday, May 6.

267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

TEXT: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
 MUSIC: Spanish folk melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

MADRID
 6.6.6.6.D

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.

488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

G D G

1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no

D G Em7 G

you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -

C D7 G Em C

see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es

G Am D G C

child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as

Bm7 Em A7 D

light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."

G D G D G

4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.

G Em7 G C D7 G

I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

703 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but
 3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -

reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to
 thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me
 fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -

thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,
 whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness
 way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,

thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.
 from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.
 noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

John Wesley learned the original German hymn from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas. The tune, named for a 4th-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. John Wesley, c. 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Henri Frederick Hemy, 1864; alt. James George Walton, 1874

ST. CATHERINE
 8.8.8.8.8.8