
Rector's Grace Notes ~

Baptismal Letter of Blessing ~

Baby **Julia Lucinda** was baptized at our 8:30am service Sunday November 10. Her mother **Tristane** is my niece. Tristane lost both her sister, Julia's namesake, and her mother to cancer within a year and a half of each other in 2015. Here is Julia with her **Grandpa Paul** (my brother **Paul Nelson**), and her mother and father **Tristane & Gregory Christian**. Tristane is wearing her wedding dress and Julia is wearing her Dad's baptismal gown.



And here is her beautiful **Letter of Blessing**, written by her parents . . .

To our daughter Julia, on the day of your baptism:

You are a miracle of creation, a product of the incredible gifts that God has bestowed upon mankind. We, your parents, Greg and Tristane, are beyond fortunate to have you in your lives. Like your late Auntie Julia, your namesake, you have an intense spirit and an incredible sense of humor. And we can already tell you have the indelible spirit of your late Grandma Penny. You are a beautiful, shining ray of light, Julia Lucinda Christian.

Today you take the blessing of baptism and begin your life as a child of God, a member of the Christian tradition. As you embark on this new journey, you will encounter good times, bad times, and everything in between. You will have many choices to make, and like your Auntie Julia we hope you are inspired by the words of Deuteronomy 30: 19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." So choose life, little Julia, choose life.

You are just a baby now, little Julia. A fiercely independent baby, but a baby nonetheless, helpless and innocent. But every day you grow bigger, and soon you will be taking steps on your own - both literally and figuratively. As you take those first tottering steps, and then more sure ones, remember the words of Psalm 23: 4: ". . . I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." We will not always be by your side, little Julia, but we, and God, will always be with you.

As you make your way through the wondrous and crazy journey of life, we remind you to live by the purest teachings of Jesus Christ. Love others as you love yourself. Help those in need. Be good, gentle, and kind but also strong, principled and brave. Do these things because they are right, and you believe in them, and they will bring you joy and strength beyond measure.

Julia Lucinda Christian, you are our child, a child of God, and a child of the world. We all love you, now and forever, today when you are little, and tomorrow when you are big. Our love for you, and God's love for you, is unconditional and never ending.

All Our Love, Mummy & Daddy

Archdeacon Deborah+
