

Littlewood United Episcopal Fellowship-- Fremont, CA

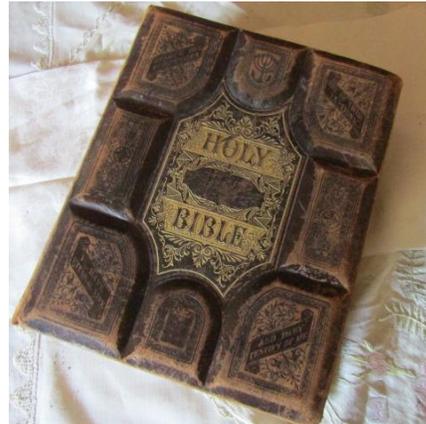
On Saturday afternoon, September 18th, our third baby son-- Benjamin Price Bartlett-- was privately baptized under the name of "theFather, Son, and Holy Ghost" with a thrice pouring of water. Compared to past home christenings, the absence of friends, much due to lockdowns, gave pause for reflection.

Given the circumstance of [Great Sickness](#), & related travel restrictions, etc., the Rev. C Fargo-- a local Orthodox Presbyterian minister-- did the baptism. Mr Fargo has frequently spoken at our UE public assemblies and was our class leader in the UEMC for four years until his relocation to Sonora CA. But as class leader he's tendered many good advices and prayers for us.



Prior to service, Mr Bartlett, exhorted upon Deut 1, "not one of those men of this evil generation [shall] see that good land which I swear to give unto your fathers..[yet] your little ones shall go tither". Psalm 127 was sung to the metred verse of Tate & Brady (set forth as part of the PECUSA hymnal 1801). And, Rev Fargo preached from the book of Romans, in the 4th chapter, "Abraham our Father".

The gospel, from Mark 10, was read from the Bartlett's 1885 Pictorial Family Bible Family Bible (RSV)-- also containing apocraphra, psalms in metre, and concordance; together with Dictionary-- it containing the usual marriage, baptism, confirmation, and birth records therein.



It was deemed expedient (for sake of past Dissenters' exceptions) that Mr Fargo read John Wesley's [1784 liturgy](#) for infant baptism. The difference with our standard prayer book is slight, but Wesley's service noticeably lacks sponsors' (i.e., proxy) vows as well as omitting phrases mentioning 'regeneration'.



Nonetheless, Mrs Bartlett, and her two oldest daughters, stood as 'friends of the child', presenting Benjamin before the 'font' (namely, a silver-plated punch bowl placed on our

dining table). Fargo closed this gospel ordinance by extemporaneous prayer, begging help to keep Jehovah's covenant. .

We hope to certify Benjamin's baptism with the Missionary District (see the certifications given in the 1892 BCP) at their next Convocation, 'receiving him as one of the flock of true Christian people'. Again this was a private, not public, service done by a lawful, albeit non-episcopal, Presbyterian minister,



Over the years the size of our fellowship has waxed and waned. The absence of many was a reminder of what close & Godly friends the Fargos have been. Of all the ministers we've known, Rev. Fargo, our class leader, knows the souls of our family the best, even leading us to repentance.

Especially after last year's national tumult, we wanted to demonstrate how solitary, or scattered, prayerbook households can keep 'the way of truth and unity of spirit' where otherwise no local continuing Anglican or Church of God ministry exists.