



## January 11, 2026 Baptism of Christ Sunday

### Prelude

Whether you are joining us in person or on-line, know that we are here to journey along with you as you grow in love of God and neighbor, and as a follower of Jesus Christ.

### Remembering our Baptism

**Cheryl Sawyer**

### \*Call to Worship

In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light “Day” and the Darkness, God called “Night.”

**We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.**

God has blessed us and adopted us as God’s own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

**The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.**

This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus’ Baptism.

**As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.**

**\*Hymn I Was There To Hear Your Bourning Cry TFWS 2051**

**\*Hymn Breathe on Me, Breath of God UMH 420**

**First Lesson Isaiah 42:1-9 CEB**

### Word for Children

**Second Lesson Matthew 3:1-17 CEB**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.”*

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees.

Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

**Message for the Lord's Day**

**Rev. Deborah Coble**

**\*Response To The Word**

**Gloria Patri**

**UMH 70**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the  
Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, is now  
and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

**Blessed Assurance**

**UMH 369**

**Prayers of the People**

After each petition, there will be a pause for silent prayer. After Pastor says "Lord in your mercy" ALL reply "hear our prayers."

Together, let us pray for the people of this congregation...

for those who suffer and those in trouble...  
for the concerns of this local community...  
for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...  
for the earth you have given to our care...  
for the Church universal; its leaders, its members,  
and its mission,  
in communion with the saints...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Mission And Ministry Moment**

**Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Doxology**

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

**Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful and Calling God, continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through

waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others—to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom.

Use these offerings to fulfill your righteousness among us. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Hymn**

**Here I Am, Lord**

**UMH 593**

**\*Benediction**

**Life is short and we have too little time  
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.  
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,**

and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.  
**Amen.**