

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Baptism

Welcome *Pastor Jeff will give announcements and welcome*

****Call to Worship** (*Liturgist parts are indicated in **BOLD** and ***)

****Good Morning, I am Nancy Cooley, and will be serving as Worship Leader today. Would you please stand as you are comfortable and able to join me in the responsive Call to Worship?**

****Leader:** A voice of power and majesty calls out to us: I am your God; I have called you in righteousness.

People: We are amazed that God knows us and calls us. By God's breath and spirit, we receive life.

****Leader:** God takes us by the hand and leads us. In covenant with God, we extend light to the world.

People: Eyes are opened and prisoners are freed. Justice and peace prevail, by God's strength.

****Leader:** Worship with joy and give glory to God's name. Listen for the new thing God declares.

People: We remember that we have been baptized. May we live as those with whom God is pleased.

****Will you join us in our opening song, "When Jesus Came to Jordan", hymn #252, and the words will be on the screen.**

Children's Time

Community Notes

Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

² (Pastor Jeff will first do the prayers, Liturgist will read Invitation & pray)

****Invitation:** How can we share the message that God is impartial, that justice and peace are God's intention for all humankind? We combine our individual efforts through the church, joining in programs, projects, and outreach that reflect God's light into the world. Our gifts of gratitude are one way of sharing.

****Will you pray with me?** We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by opposition. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. Amen.

Praise Song *"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"* -Praise Team

****Scripture Reading** Acts 10:34-43 NRSV

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

****Scripture Reading Matthew 3:13-17 NRSV**

As this is a reading from the Gospel, please stand in body or spirit.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Message “*The Life that Begins in Baptism*” Pastor Jeff Williams

Baptism: Bodie Wilson Sherman

Closing Song “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*” Hymn #251

Blessing for the Week

Choral Benediction

Taught by Love, pages 32 and 33