

# *Order of Worship*

Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

---



**Gathering and Announcements** *Deep River*

**Prelude** *When in Our Music God is Glorified* – by Charles Stanford  
Jessye Whitis, pianist

**\*Call to worship** (from Psalm 148)

The voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty.

**May the Lord bless us with God's Peace!**

The voice of the Lord proclaimed Jesus as God's beloved.

**In our own baptisms, we are claimed as God's beloved.**

**\*Hymn # 475** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**\*Call to confession**

On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we remember our own baptisms, where we were claimed as children of the covenant and beloved of God. Yet we live as those who are alienated from God. We have turned away from God, one another and the earth. Let us confess our sins, trusting in God's mercy.

**\*Prayer of confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another. We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept)*

**\*Assurance of pardon**

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — and of Jesus' solidarity in his own baptism by John with all who have been immersed in baptismal waters, repenting of their sin.

In his name, God has forgiven us of our own sins and set us on new paths. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. **Thanks be to God!**

**Choral Anthem** *O When I Sing the Songs of God* – by Mary Kay Beall and John Carter      Jessye Whitis, Music Director and Pianist

### **Prayer for illumination**

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the words we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us this day. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Scripture readings** Psalm 27; Matthew 3: 13 - 17

**Sermon** *Front Porch Politics*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**\*Affirmation of faith** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**\*Hymn # 488** *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

### **Call for the offering**

On the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we celebrate the great gift of Baptism and the life of promise therein. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return.

**Offertory** *I Love to Tell the Story* – arr. Phillip Keveren      Jessye Whitis, pianist

### **Prayer of dedication**

O God, in our baptisms we have been named and claimed as your covenant people, connected deeply with you, with one another, and with the earth. May these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for the story of Jesus's baptism by John in the wilderness, for it reminds us of our own baptisms. Just as you claimed Jesus as your beloved, so also have we been claimed as your own children.

We remember before you all the children and adults who have been baptized in this congregation of your people, and for their parent(s) or sponsors. Help us remember as a congregation the promises we also have made to each of them – to nurture them in their lives of faith. And help us remember our own baptisms daily. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy one, our baptisms also remind us that the font is the true center of our cosmos. It is the place where we were called to live in covenant relationship with one another and with your good creation. Help us remember that declaration and promise. Empower us to live out of that love in all that we do, healing divisions, addressing enmity, reaching out to those we perceive as enemies. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, we pray for all countries around the globe — for those who have been entrusted to exercise leadership on behalf of the common good. Help them discern the wise use of resources so they may faithfully meet the needs of all people in their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, “**Our Father...**”

### **\*Hymn # 826 *Lift High the Cross***

#### **Charge and benediction**

Hear the voice of God that claimed you in baptism: you are precious and beloved in God's sight. God has claimed our lives in baptism that we might die to sin and be raised to new life.

God's Spirit empowers us now to follow Jesus into our world, so as you go, lift up the broken hearted and stand with the oppressed. Love God with your whole lives and love neighbors as yourselves. **Amen.**

**Postlude** Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing      Jessye Whitis, pianist