

**Sunday, January 11, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**First Sunday after the Epiphany**

**TODAY'S FOCUS: BAPTISM.** Let's take a moment to consider not only what the baptism of Christ means for all Christians, but also what our own baptism *in* Christ means to us.

## PRELUDE — Betsy Foushee

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin**

**\*OPENING HYMN**                      UMH #189              “Fairest Lord Jesus” (verses 1 & 4)

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, oh thou of God and of man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou my soul's glory, joy and crown.

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Psalm 29* — Suzanne Gallagher

One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

**Many: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

One: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name,

**Many: worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters.

**Many: The God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters.**

One: The voice of the Lord is powerful.

**Many: The voice of God is powerful**

One: The voice of God is full of majesty.

**Many: The voice of God is over the waters;**

**All: Let us praise the name of the Lord!**

## OPENING PRAYER — Lin

**SPECIAL MUSIC** — Praise Band??

**HYMN**

TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

**CHILDREN'S STORY** — Sharon Goldade**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 3:13-17 — Suzanne Gallagher

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

**MESSAGE**

"Becoming One"

Rev. Lin Cheek

**RESPONSIVE HYMN****Insert** "Down to the River to Pray" (W&S #3164— vs 1-2)

1. As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.  
O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
Come on, sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

2. As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.  
O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
Come on, brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

**OFFERTORY** — Betsy Foushee**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Suzanne Gallagher

**ALL:** Faithful and Loving 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.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin**

**All: 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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      UMH #605      “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” (vs 1 & 3)

1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.

Number them among your people, bless as Christ blessed long ago.

Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

3. O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!

To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!

We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born.

By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us: God, transform!

**\*BENEDICTION — Lin**

**POSTLUDE — Betsy Foushee**

Prelude/Postlude—Betsy Foushee

Offertory— Betsy Foushee

Organ — N/A

Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher

Special Music: Praise Band??

Accomp.— Betsy Foushee

Song Leader — Bonnie Clark

Violin — Rae Ann Norell

Children's Message— Sharon Goldade