

# Banning United Methodist Church

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

## GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Myrle Petty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Myrle Petty

CENTERING WORDS

Myrle Petty

*"Today and every day, Jesus says, 'Come! Follow me.' Today and every day, let us answer, 'You, Lord Jesus, are the one we seek.'"*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Ode

## WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Myrle Petty

L: Children of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

**P: God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

L: When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

**P: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

L: No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

**P: God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.**

L: Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

**P: We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

†OPENING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art" vs. 1, 3, & 4

UMH #77

†OPENING PRAYER

Myrle Petty

**Inviting God, help us to hear Jesus calling us and help us to follow Him. In Christ, Your kingdom draws near to us, whether we are seeking it or not. When we are caught up in our anguish, You shine a great light in our darkness. When we face days full of trouble, You shelter us.**

**When we are at odds with others, quarreling and breaking apart into factions, You save us with the unity won by Christ through the cross and His resurrection.**

**Whether we face danger or are at ease in our routines—the kingdom of heaven draws near and Jesus says:**

**"Now is the time to follow Me."**

**You hear us, God, when we cry out to You. May we hear You this day when You cry out to us. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Myrle Petty

Isaiah 9:1-4 NRSV

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

GOSPEL READING

Pastor Ode

Matthew 4:12-23 NRSV

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— <sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has

dawned.” <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON HYMN** “We've a Story to Tell to the Nations” UMH #569

**SERMON** “The Importance of God's Mission on Earth and How We Should Get Involved” Pastor Ode

**PRAYERS** Myrle Petty

CHILDREN IN PRAYER

(After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Ode

**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.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** Myrle Petty

**OFFERTORY** Cathy Mauge

†**DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Myrle Petty  
**Generous God, You have blessed us with Your call to follow Jesus. In return, we rejoice as we give our offerings and gifts. May they be used for the work of proclaiming the *good news* that the kingdom of heaven come near. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

**CLOSING HYMN** “Go, Make of All Disciples” UMH #571

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Ode

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

**POSTLUDE** Cathy Mauge