

Banning United Methodist Church
Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Dan Mabey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dan Mabey

INTRODUCTION

Kay Hobert

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Ode

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Cathy Mauge

†**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In this holy season of Christmas,

P: Christ comes to us again.

L: In this quiet after the harried days of December,

P: God invites us to pause and reflect.

L: Our journey has led us here.

P: The Spirit is with us now.

L: Let us bow down as sages of old,

P: and worship Christ our King.

Dan Mabey

†**OPENING HYMN**

"It Is Well with My Soul" vs. 1, 3 & 4

UMH #377

†**OPENING PRAYER**

Dan Mabey

Gracious God, thank You for the 'mystery' of Christ that has been revealed to us—that through the Gospel, we are all fellow heirs and members of the same body. Open our eyes today to see the unsearchable riches of Christ. Give us the boldness and confident access to approach You through faith. May our time together reflect Your manifold wisdom to the world. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

AN ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF AN APPOINTMENT

Kay Hobert

Leader: Dear friends, today we welcome Pastor Ode, who has been appointed to serve as our pastor.

We believe that he is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our Bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank.

Pastor Ode, you have been sent to live among us as *a bearer* of the Word of God; *a minister* of the Sacraments; and *a sustainer* of the love, order, service and discipleship of the people of God.

Pastor: Today I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold Pastor Ode, in these ministries?

Congregation: We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Dan Mabey

Isaiah 60: 1-6 NRSV

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be

radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

GOSPEL READING

Pastor Ode

Ephesians 3:1-12 NRSV

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

UMH #98

SERMON

"New Year's Resolutions"

Pastor Ode

PRAYERS

CHILDREN IN PRAYER

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

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dan Mabey

Pastor Ode

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dan Mabey

OFFERTORY

Cathy Mauge

†DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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.

UMH #95

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dan Mabey

Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Matthew 2:1-12)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

Hymnal Page 12

COMMUNION HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

UMH #618

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH #451

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

Pastor Ode

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

Cathy Mauge