

Banning United Methodist Church

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Kathy Bainter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Bainter

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ESCOBEDO-FRANK

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Bainter

L: Come to the waters.

P: We gather at the river.

L: Come to the waters.

P: The waters of grace flow over us.

L: Come to the waters.

P: We are washed in God's love.

L: Come to the waters.

P: We are God's Beloved children.

REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM

On this Baptism of our Lord Sunday, you are invited to come forward, run your fingers through the baptismal font, and take a stone if you wish. Pastor Doug will say to you: "Remember your baptism and be grateful."

INTRODUCTION

All standing in body and/or spirit.

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth. Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream

that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Pastor offers gestures of calling upon the Holy Spirit to come upon the people and the water. The people are invited to offer the same gestures as they respond.

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.

Come upon these waters.

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

†**OPENING HYMN**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

UMH #64

†**OPENING PRAYER**

Kathy Bainter

God of strength, God of love, surround us with Your love. Gather us as Your beloved children. Open our ears to hear Your voice. Open our hearts to the power of Your transforming love. May Your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for Your work in the world. Bless us in this holy time. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Kathy Bainter

Isaiah 43:1-7 NRSV

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 NRSV

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is

coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SUNDAY ENSEMBLE

SERMON "Amazing Spirit!" Pastor Doug

PRAYERS Pastor Doug

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

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Kathy Bainter

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.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Kathy Bainter
Loving God, You bless us with Your love. You know each one of us. We live in confidence and trust, knowing You care for us. We bring these gifts to You, our source of life. Use them, we pray, that others may experience Your grace and live free from fear. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

†**CLOSING HYMN** "When Jesus Came to Jordan" UMH #252

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†**BENEDICTION**

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE Cathy Mauge