

MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, January 11, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Sunday after the Epiphany – Baptism of the Lord

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Sunday, January 11, 2026 – The Sunday after the Epiphany – Baptism of the Lord

We've all been "lost at sea." Not necessarily in the ocean, but in our schools, jobs and relationships. The good news is that we are not drifting alone. God is with us in the stormy waters, looking for us, listening to us, and giving us strength and peace.

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

The Prelude *Pastorale sopra "Vidimus Stellam" ["We have seen a star"]* Carlotta Ferrari (b.1975)

The Introit (10:45) *Three Kings from Persian Lands afar* Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)
Mr. Kirby Dilworth, soloist

*Three Kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three, where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King; Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.
The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.
Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King.*

Chorale:

*How brightly shines the morning star! With grace and truth from heaven afar our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line, for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine, my soul with love o'erfloweth.
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

***Opening Hymn** **"We three kings"** **UMH 254**

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

℞ **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name. Let us worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

∞ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.

℞ **The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord causes all in his temple to say "Glory!"

Come, let us worship the Lord and lift our voices in praise!

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**It is you, Lord, in whom I have found my safety; let shame never drag me down.
Because you are right and good, rescue me; hear my cries and save me.
Be my solid, secure rock—the one to which I can always go.
Deliver me from all evil. You alone are my hope.
You have been my Sovereign God for as long as I can remember.
I know this is true.
You gave me life, and so I trust every day in you.
Today, tomorrow and for all eternity, I give you praise.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“My soul gives glory to my God”

UMH 198

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (school-age children) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service. Nursery is available for younger children; please see an usher for directions.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Psalter

Ps. 29:1-11

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, “Glory!” The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 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.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

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, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

The Sermon

"Lost at Sea"

Rev. Strandburg

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***The Sign of Peace**

℣. The peace of Christ be with you.

℟. And also with you.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "It is well with my soul"

UMH 377

The Anthem (10:45 am)

He comes to us

Jane M. Marshall; text:
Albert Schweitzer

*He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, he came to those men who knew him not.
He speaks to us the same words: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfill for our time.
He commands, and to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the
conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall
learn in their own experience who he is.
How brightly shines the morning star...*

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"The Sinless One to Jordan came"

Inserted below



1 The sin - less one to Jor - dan came,
2 Up - ris - ing from the wa - ters there,
3 A - bove him see the heaven - ly Dove,
4 How blest that mis - sion then be - gun
5 O Christ, may we bap - tized from sin,
6 On you may all your peo - ple feed,



1 and in the riv - er shared our stain;
2 the Fa - ther's voice did then de - clare
3 the sign of God the Fa - ther's love,
4 to heal and save a race un - done!
5 go forth with you a world to win:
6 and know you are the Bread in - deed,



1 God's right - eous - ness he thus ful - filled,
2 that Christ, the Son of God, had come
3 now by the Ho - ly Spi - rit shed
4 Straight to the wil - der - ness he goes
5 grant us the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power
6 who gives e - ter - nal life to those



1 and chose the path his Fa - ther willed.
2 to lead his scat - tered peo - ple home.
3 up - on the Son's a - noint - ed head.
4 to wres - tle with his peo - ple's foes.
5 to shield us in temp - ta - tion's hour.
6 that with you died, and with you rose.

Words: George B. Timms (b. 1910), alt.

Music: *Solemnis haec festivitas*, melody from *Graduale*, 1685

*The Dismissal

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

*The Benediction & Recessional

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

The Postlude

Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern

Max Drischner (1891-1971)

Prayer Concerns

Gary Henry, *undergoing cancer treatment.*

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, *undergoing cancer treatment.*

Norma Buhrman, *enduring serious illness.*

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC **Russell Dale** - CPT **Shaun Hay** - LTC **Azizi Wesmiller** - LTC **Matthew Wesmiller**

2LT **Keith Cable** - LTC **Zachary Allen Finch** - CPL **Wyatt Hoover**

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Iran, Iraq, and Syria**. (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).*

Please remember the special concerns of those in our community and throughout our world in your personal prayer life throughout the week. If you wish to solicit prayers from the congregation for any matter (health, travel, special concerns, etc.), please contact the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

OLIVIA SCHMIDT AND TEDDY ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

ALAN CHESLEIGH, CROSS BEARER

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The rosebud on the altar this morning
given in honor of the birth of
Adrian Jonathan Demich
born December 21, 2025 to parents
Jessica & Brendan Demich.*

