

## Worship Engagement and Devotion for week of January 9, 2022

READ : [Isaiah 43:1-7](#), [Luke 3:15-22](#)

*Living with Joy Week 2: Baptized in Love*



*Living with Joy* is based on stories from early in Jesus' life and ministry, we will explore what it means to live a meaningful, joyful life. In contrast to common New Year's themes such as resolutions, plans and starting over, this series will help us find the joy already present in our lives and reflect on God's continuous presence and inspiration for our daily living.

### Questions for Reflection:

- What does it mean for you to know that God knows and names you in love and shapes you in that love?
- How does remembering your baptism help you to remember that God chooses you, his beloved, over and over again?
- How does knowing God calls you beloved inspire you to live in the joy of that belovedness and empower you to share God's love in your everyday life?
- As you read this week's scriptures, what do you notice about the connection between birth, baptism, and God's kingdom?



Art by Logan McNutt, Faith United Young Adult

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

### Spiritual Practice: Word for the Year/Star Words/Guiding Word

What's your word for 2022?

A star word or word for the year is a word of intention, rooted in the spiritual practices of the desert mothers and fathers who would seek a word to reflect on for the coming year. The use of star words is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches.

Star words are a word to focus on or pray over that might help one listen more intently to what God is placing on your heart and calling you to dream and live. A star word can help us hear the Spirit whisper into our soul.

**Self-guided prayer stations will be available in the Chapel January 9 – January 16 during church office and activity hours to guide you in discerning your word for 2022.**

Learn more about this spiritual practice at the following links:



- Participate in a free 12-day online mini-retreat at your own pace to help your word choose you, Give Me A Word by Abbey of the Heart - <https://abbeyofthearts.com/blog/2021/12/01/give-me-a-word-2022/>
- DaySpring Word Quiz at <https://www.dayspring.com/yourwordquiz#/home> to take a fun quiz to help you discern your word for 2022.
- Kristen Vincent, author of A Bead and a Prayer, offers a great reflection on this spiritual practice at <http://prayerworksstudio.com/finding-your-star-word-for-2018/>

Often your word chooses you. Once you receive your word, spend some time in prayer reflecting on your word. Ask God to help you understand what this word may mean to you in this new year. Perhaps it is a quality you are being called to develop. Perhaps it is

something you are asked to give to another.

In addition to discerning a word for yourself, you may also want to choose a word to pray over your children or grandchildren.