



# ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 11, 2026    Baptism of the Lord

– *We Gather* –

## PRELUDE

*Variations on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"*  
Alicia Luttrell

arr. Hopson

## WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Rev. Jennifer Porto

*Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.*

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**    *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

## ❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Lamey Singleton

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

**Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name,

**Worship the Lord in holy array.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the water.

**The God of glory thunders, the Lord upon many waters.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful.

**The voice of God is full of majesty. Let us praise the name of the Lord!**

## ♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

*Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*

UMH 606

## OPENING PRAYER

### ❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant and accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

❖**PASSING OF THE PEACE**    *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

*Today's Acolyte: George Wolf*

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit*    **Print** – *Congregation Reads Aloud*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Still-speaking God, as these words from Scripture are read, may it be to us as if the heavens are opening, and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove, revealing your love for us as your daughters and sons. Amen.

### LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,  
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.  
We thank you for your loving care,  
which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

**Response: We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have given us life and reason,  
and set us in a world filled with your glory.  
You have comforted us with family and friends,  
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers. **Response**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,  
and have given us your peace.  
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.  
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit  
and the witness of your Church. **Response**

You have been our light in darkness  
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.  
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys  
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors. **Response**

You remembered us when we forgot you.  
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.  
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.  
For all your patience and overflowing grace. **Response**

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION      *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*

UMH 608

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON      Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

♪❖ACT OF PRAISE

*Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*  
Chancel Choir

Wolfe

❖NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*"He Is the One"*

Dr. Darren McClellan

A COVENANT PRAYER

UMH 607

— *WE RESPOND* —

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

UMH 50

*We will sing the musical responses on page 53 when indicated by \*\*.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

Berry

♪❖DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

— *WE GO FORTH* —

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖HYMN OF INVITATION

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

UMH 252

❖BENEDICTION

❖POSTLUDE

*Kingsfold*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

✠ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joan and George Waldron by the Nusbaum-Gochev family.



**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

**January 11, 2026**

- 9:00am Ascension Modern Service (FH)
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
- 5:30pm Youth

- Monday** Men’s Study Group, 7:00am (WP)
- Tuesday** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)
- Wednesday** Handbell Practice, 5:00pm  
Choir Practice, 6:00pm  
Pastor’s Class, 6:00pm (FP)
- Thursday** Men’s Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)  
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)
- Friday** Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor  
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Monday morning women's bible study will resume on January 26. All women are invited to gather for meaningful conversations, spiritual growth, and fellowship around God's Word. The focus will be on exploring the power of our words—how we speak, how we listen, and how our speech reflects our hearts.

**SW DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

The Southwest District of the AL West Florida Conference will meet at Fairhope UMC today. Refreshments will be served at 2:00pm with the meeting to follow at 2:30pm. All are welcome.

**DILL LECTURE SERIES AT DAUPHIN WAY UMC**

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston will be the lecture speaker on Sunday, January 25 at 5:00pm and our Ashland Place Choir will be performing in the service. Bishop Holston is the resident bishop of the AL West Florida and North AL Conferences. His love for missions has taken him around the world and gained him recognition as a mission specialist.

**ACOLYTES**

If your child or youth is interested in serving in our acolyte ministry, please contact Rev. Jennifer Porto at [jporto@apumc.com](mailto:jporto@apumc.com). We are looking for acolytes for both services.

**CIRCLE OF CONCERN**

Please hold these persons in your prayers:  
Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Bob Cook, \*Ann Cottrell, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Judie Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Jake Elder, Mihyon Ellis, \*Lanier Faircloth, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Russell Fountain, Marcia Golson, Curt Graf (Curtis Graf’s father), Holly Hastings (Dee Dee Cook's sister), Diane Holub (Angela Prine’s mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, \*Jean McCutchen, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick’s brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough’s brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (*\*new concern this week*)

**WELCOME**

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

CONNECT

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

- Senior Pastor** Dr. Darren McClellan  
[dmccllellan@apumc.com](mailto:dmccllellan@apumc.com)
- Associate Pastor** Jennifer Porto  
[jjporto@apumc.com](mailto:jjporto@apumc.com)
- Music Director** Alicia Luttrell  
[musicdirector@apumc.com](mailto:musicdirector@apumc.com)
- Administrator** Kim Brown  
[admin@apumc.com](mailto:admin@apumc.com)
- Youth and Technology** Joseph Griggs  
[youth@apumc.com](mailto:youth@apumc.com)
- Communication** Leslie Johnston  
[communication@apumc.com](mailto:communication@apumc.com)
- Ascension** Jon Miller  
[millermediaonline@gmail.com](mailto:millermediaonline@gmail.com)
- Children** Linda Noble  
[Linda.q.noble@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.q.noble@gmail.com)
- Membership** [membership@apumc.com](mailto:membership@apumc.com)
- Preschool** Camille Hieronymus  
[preschool@apumc.com](mailto:preschool@apumc.com)
- Building Steward** Danny White  
[building@apumc.com](mailto:building@apumc.com)

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Offering Received 1/4/26 \$11,002



To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

ONLINE GIVING

## Hymns and Responses for January 11, 2026

### *Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*

UMH 606

1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord, in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord; give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify; and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.
2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind; we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind. We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow; and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.
3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive, present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give; to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away, and register our names on high and keep us to that day!

### *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*

UMH 608

1. This is the Spirit's entry now: the water and the word, the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
2. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day, to rise again by his design as followers of his way.
3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power that washes us through all our days. Lord, cleanse again this hour.

### *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

UMH 252

1. When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
2. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.
3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make; this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

## **The Baptismal Covenant IV**

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith

we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,

acknowledge what God is doing for us,

and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

### **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as your Lord,

in union with the church which Christ has opened

to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

According to the grace given to you,

will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church

and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**I will.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith

as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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].**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**[the holy catholic] church,**

**he communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**he resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting.]**

### **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

when nothing existed but chaos,

you swept across the dark waters

and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,

you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan

to the land which you promised.

**\*\*Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,

nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called his disciples

to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection

and to make disciples of all nations.

**\*\*Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

and by this gift of water call to our remembrance,

the grace declared to us in our baptism.

For you have washed away our sins

and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives,

that dying and rising with Christ,

we may share in his final victory.

**\*\*All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

### **REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you,

that having been born through water and the Spirit,

you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING**

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given us.**

**As members of the body of Christ**

**and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,**

**we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church**

**by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,**

**that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace,

who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,

establish and strengthen you

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

that you may live in grace and peace.