

Word
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 3: 13-17
Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MOMENT
(After Children’s Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children’s Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON ~ Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

*HYMN #347 Spirit Song SPIRIT SONG

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

**Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in Jesus’ name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)

Thanksgiving
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming, Hymn #216 Howard Helvey

*DOXOLOGY #95 OLD 100TH
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
See musical setting A, pp. 17A-18A in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.
[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD’S PRAYER (spoken)
**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, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RECEIVING COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION
Fraction Anthem, Agnus Dei Gerald R. Near
Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins:
have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

What is this Lovely Fragrance? (17th Century French Carol)
Healey Willan
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring?
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty hear you not heavenly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like the scents of flowers in spring?
What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wondering eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o’er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wondering eyes?
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Savior, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure, heart’s adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Savior, born today.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #267 O Love, How Deep DEO GRACIAS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE
Toccata on Picardy Gordon Young

Leading Today’s Worship Service:
Preaching: Rev. Stephanie Bekhor
Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor
Liturgist: Kay Summers
Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas
Children’s Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Join us for Coffee Fellowship by exiting the side door to the gathering area.

* * *
Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk*.
Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Joe Geles and his family, as they grieve the death of his father, Joseph E. Geles, who died on December 24.

~For the family and friends of Patricia Drobnek, friend of Debby Fairweather, who died on December 20.

~For Rev. Ed Walker and his family, as they grieve the death of his mother on December 24.

~For Anthony and Michelle Capozzoli and family, as they grieve the death of Christine Capozzoli, beloved mother/mother-in-law, on December 18, after a year-long battle with cancer. She is dearly missed, especially by her granddaughter Ceci, who was very close with her.

~For Marta S., as she recovers from surgery. Marta is a friend of Cindy Huber.

~For Tom S., as he recovers from surgery. Tom's sister is a friend of Cindy Huber.

~For Ginger Kennedy, Aunt of Erin Carnahan, who is recovering from a broken hip.

~For Jorge Barrera, who suffered a second stroke on December 13. Prayers for his recovery and for his family, Carla, Alejandra, and Carol.

~For Ben, Sarah Whiddon's fiancé, who is recovering from foot surgery.

~For Susan S., as she recovers from a hip replacement. Susan is a friend of Cindy Huber.

~For Bob, Ruth and David, on the one-year anniversary of the passing of their wife and mother, Laura.

~Healing prayers for Gisela Wiener.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Keith Fairbrother, Jason Micheli, Sally, Joel, Chi Bahn, Christine, Mindy, Judy, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Kent Sapp, Latifa Sharif, Rozanne, Dena, Mary Hays, Susan Newton.

Prayers for the World:

~For the family and friends of Renee Nicole Good who was fatally shot by ICE in Minnesota. For the safety of all communities.

~For the families of the people who were killed in Venezuela during the US attack. For Venezuela's President Maduro and his wife who were taken prisoner by the US and are being tried in New York.

~For the people of Columbia, Panama, Cuba, Iran and Greenland whose countries have been targeted for take-over by US President Trump.

~For the families of the 40 people killed in a Swiss bar that caught fire during a New Year's party and for the 116 people badly burned in the fire.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website mountolivetumc.com/prayers or use the back of the attendance card.

Announcements

Save the Date, Annual Youth Mission Play

Mark your calendars for the Mount Olivet Players production of *Pandemonium*. Join us on February 6, 7, 13 and 14 for our evening performances at 7 PM. The matinee will be held on Sunday, February 15 at 3:30 PM. All donations go to support youth missions at Mount Olivet. Ticket price: \$0. Donations for youth missions encouraged. Tickets available soon!

UM Day at the General Assembly

Thursday, January 29, 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

An opportunity to advocate for justice for our neighbors! For more information and to register find the link on our website. Registration closes on January 18.

Confirmation Class

Mount Olivet's Youth Ministry is committed to building a compassionate space where all are welcome to explore their faith. Our confirmation study for 8th graders or above begins on March 1 at 4 PM in the Youth Area. There will be 6 sessions (skipping Palm Sunday and Easter). Confirmation Sunday will be April 26. Contact Evan at ehannah@mtolivet-umc.org or Pastor Sara at skeeling@mtolivet-umc.org with questions or to register.

Help Put Food on the Table Food Drive

During this difficult time for many of our neighbors, help put food on their tables by donating canned goods. Place your items in the basket in the Preschool Lobby on Sunday or leave in the bin on the 16th Street porch (entrance door #1). The following low sugar and low sodium items are needed:

- Canned fruits
- Canned tuna
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables
- Canned tomatoes
- Peanut butter (in plastic jars)
- Cereal

Contact Linnea Carlson with any questions at Lcarlson@mtolivet-umc.org.

Find additional announcements and more on our website mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.



January 11, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet. Today we travel to the banks of the River Jordan where Jesus was baptized and blessed by God, who said of him: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Whether you have emerged from the waters or are still roiling beneath the surface, hear God say to you, "I love you; with you I am well pleased." May you rejoice in the knowledge that God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

The Holy Boy

John Ireland

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth.

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ, the firstborn of our large family.

Praise be to God!

*HYMN #139 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you call us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother, Amen.