



Al-Maghtas (Arabic: س ط غ م ل ا, romanized: al-Magħṭas, lit. ‘the Baptism’ or ‘the Immersion’), officially known as Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan,” is an archaeological World Heritage Site in Jordan, on the east bank of the Jordan River, reputed to be the location of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and venerated as such since at least the Byzantine period. The place has also been referred to as Bethabara (Hebrew: הרבע תיב) and historically Bethany (הינע תיב) or Bethany Beyond the Jordan. (from *Wikipedia*)



The Celebration of Worship

January 11, 2026 • Baptism of the Lord

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader:	Steve Hanway
Pianist:	Nancy Arata-Fong
Choir Conductor:	Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader:	Aki Kumagai
YES:	Jana Nakase-Lee, Lynn Yamamoto

Centering Prayer for Worship

God of life and goodness, You entered into a covenant with the Hebrew people by sharing Your presence and promises with them, offering them a relationship of responsibility and faithfulness to You. We celebrate the sign of Your New Covenant of faithfulness in Jesus’ baptism, life, death and resurrection. Thank you for giving us a secure identity through Christ and adopting us into Your family through baptism. We are grateful for the gift of Your ongoing grace that claims, sustains, and saves us; offering us forgiveness and transformation throughout our lives. Please fill us with Your Spirit and strengthen us in faith, so that we may embody Christ’s love to all. Amen.

Prelude

Nancy Arata-Fong

* Those who can, please stand

***Introit**

All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Steve Hanway

Leader: Gracious God, we gather to express our unity with You and with each other. We are a community which spans the centuries, bound together by a covenant whose sign is baptism.

People: We have inherited this covenant of baptism from those in ages past who handed on their faith and faithfulness to us.

All: Joining the good company of Your beloved children throughout history, we delight to worship You and offer You our thanks and praise.

***Opening Hymn: God Is Here! (#461)**

God is here! As we Your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold, here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work Your purpose out.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Response: "Shalom"**

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, Kami no mi megumi. *(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with grace from God.)*

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani. *(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly, abundantly.)*

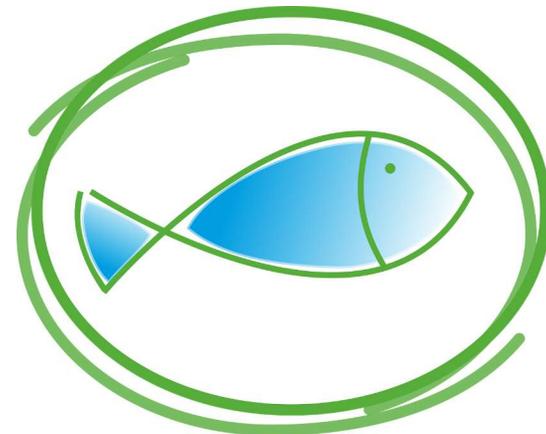
Postlude

Nancy Arata-Fong

We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music and God's presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so. Go with God's blessings.

In Appreciation:

- Greeters:** Maurine Huang, Diane Younglove
- Ushers:** Julie Chew, Diane Younglove
- Parking:** Gary Younglove
- Sound System:** Dave McGill
- Zoom Moderator/Greeter:** Aki Kumagai
- Altar Flowers:** Pattie Hashimoto



***Doxology**

All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Steve Hanway

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Sending Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#356)**

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come; and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without You, we adore You! We believe!

Invitation to Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: The Greek Orthodox church has a spiritual saying that encourages a person to "become what you are." This means by virtue of your creation in God's image, and by your baptism, remember your true humanity. Christ in you, the hope of glory. Trusting in God's power to cleanse and renew our hearts, let's tell God how it is with us as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Steve Hanway

Leader: How wonderful are Your paths of peace and friendship, O God; forgive us when we put on shoes laced with anger.

People: How gracious are Your words of affirmation and encouragement; forgive us when harsh, harmful words pour from our mouths.

Leader: Have mercy on us, God of Grace. Thank You for claiming us as Your beloved children and working in our lives to strengthen, support and guide us.

All: With your Spirit's help, help us to respond to You wholeheartedly; gratefully sharing Your non-judgmental compassion and generosity with all the world.

A Time for Silent Contemplation

This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Assurance of God's Grace

Steve Hanway

Leader: Trusting that we are cherished by God not by our merit but by God's grace, we are eager to live for God and be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God! We believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

All Sing: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace** Steve Hanway

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Message Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Children and youth may now go to YES.

***Hymn of Reflection:** Baptized in Water (#492)

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King; Heirs of salvation, trusting God's promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King; One with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King; Born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Unison Prayer of Guidance

All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese) Aki Kumagai

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

2nd Scripture Reading Steve Hanway

1 Peter 3:21-22 from *The Message*

You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact - saved from the water by the water. The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience.

3rd Scripture Reading & Sermon Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

"Baptized and Beloved"

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptized, not you!" But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it. The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, the Beloved, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."

Musical Interlude Nancy Arata-Fong

Opportunity To Present Offerings

All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.