



Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARED JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT AND REKINDLING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 148)

One: The voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty.

ALL: May the Lord bless us with God's Peace!

One: The voice of the Lord proclaimed Jesus as God's beloved.

ALL: In our own baptisms, we are claimed as God's beloved.

* HYMN #96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we remember our own baptisms, where we were claimed as children of the covenant and beloved of God. Yet we live as those who are alienated from God and each other. Let us confess and trust in God's mercy.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION



Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another. We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.

KYRIE #551

Lord Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — and of Jesus' solidarity in his own baptism by John with all who have been immersed in baptismal waters, repenting of their sin. In his name, God has forgiven us of our own sins and set us on new paths. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the words we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us this day. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the



coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 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."

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

In Whom I Am Well Pleased

Rev. David Annett

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of Belhar)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* HYMN #700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY

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.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

* HYMN #482 Baptized in Water

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND SENDING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* Please stand in body or in spirit

WELCOME TO CRANSTON! We send two emails each week to those interested: an invitation to worship and a summary of prayer concerns and announcements. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Pastor David Annett, by phone or at pastor@cranstonchurch.org. Considering Membership? Contact Pastor David Annett.

Prayers and Liturgy used in today's worship are reprinted by permission from Presbyterian Outlook, ©2025. Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.

COVER ARTWORK: Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptists, Carlo Maratta, St. Peter's Basilica, 1698



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