

**Peace United Church of Christ  
January 11th, 2026  
Baptism of Jesus  
10:30am**



*Baptism of Jesus, Liz Valente*

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

[www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org)  
[office@peaceucc.org](mailto:office@peaceucc.org)

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

\*Call to Worship from Psalm 29

Ascribe to our God the glory of God's name,  
**Worship God in holy splendor!**  
God's voice thunders over the mighty waters,  
**God's voice is powerful and full of majesty.**  
God's voice flashes forth flames of fire,  
**God's voice shakes the wilderness.**  
God rules over all the waters  
**May God bring us courage and peace!**

\*Song Down to the River to Pray #36 P&amp;W

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord show me the way!  
O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down  
O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe & crown?  
Good Lord show me the way  
O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down  
Come on brothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord show me the way  
O fathers let's go down, let's go down, come on down  
O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown?  
Good Lord show me the way  
O mothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down,  
Come on mothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord show me the way  
O sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down  
O sinners, let's go down, down in the river to pray*

*As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown?  
Good Lord show me the way*

\*Prayer of Confession

God of promise and possibility, you create each one of us and call us beloved. But we confess that we doubt that belovedness: for ourselves, for others, for those whom we find it hard to love. Forgive us when we act from a place of fear or suspicion. Turn our hearts toward grace and mercy. Grant us the wisdom to trust that we belong to one another because we belong to you. Amen.

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, there is nothing we can do or leave undone that can separate us from the love of God.  
**Through Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Patty Beech-Dzuik, reader

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."

Anthem

*Lead Me Home*, Eric Barnum

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

*By Breath*

#1 P&W

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one  
The air that is my breath, is the air that you are breathing  
The air that is your breath, is the air that I am breathing  
The wind rising in my breast  
Is the wind from the east, from the west  
From the north, from the south  
Breathing in, breathing out***

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one  
The water that is my blood, my sweat, tears from crying  
Is the water that is your blood, your sweat, tears from crying  
And the rising of the tide  
Is in our veins, and in the ocean wide  
We are in the rising steam  
Rushing river, running stream***

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one  
The earth is dust, the earth is clay, flow'rs blossoming and fading  
We are dust and we are clay, we are blossoming and fading***

**Every color, every sound,  
Every place is holy ground  
Oh, every living thing  
Can you hear it laugh? Can you hear it sing?  
By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one  
The fire in my heart, my soul flame burning  
Is the fire in your heart, your soul flame burning  
We are Spirit burning bright  
By the light of day, in the dark of night We are shining like the sun  
And like the moon, like the Holy One  
By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one**

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Laurie Crelly

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen

Offertory

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Kirby Wood

\*Doxology

**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

\*Closing Song

*Thuma Mina*

#360, *New Century Hymnal*

***Thuma mina, thuma mina. Thuma mina, Somandla.  
Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, Send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.  
Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.  
Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Jesus, Fill me, Jesus, fill me, Lord.***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Lyn Kaim, Greeter

Warren Post and Tom & Christine Day, Ushers

Lu Filkins and Andrew Holmstrom, Nursery Attendant

Mary Pat Renaud, Nina Preheim, Judy Seligia-Punyko, and Kirby & Cathy Wood, Coffee Hour  
Volunteers