

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 11th, 2026 Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Richard: Come! Let us follow Jesus to the edge of the Jordan River to be baptized.

Many Voices: We come to be cleansed and made whole.

Richard: Come! Let us witness John's confusion and Jesus' insistence that John baptize God Incarnate.

Many Voices: We come to join Jesus in choosing life in the kingdom of God.

Richard: Come! Let us hear God declare the truth of Jesus' identity and the truth of our identity as baptized people.

Many Voices: We come to remember and embody who we are as beloved children of God.

Richard: Come! Let us worship God who leads us into the baptismal waters and salvation life.

Many Voices: We come to worship God who empowers us through divine presence to live together as the family of God.

*Opening Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

UMH #189

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Richard: Dear God, we come before you in answer your call in our life. You created the heavens and the earth and placed us here for life and hope. We know your dream for a world that is righteous and just, a world you promise will come to pass. Breathe your Spirit upon us again and again and bring to life our passion for your bold vision. Make us lights to those who sit in darkness! In the name of Jesus, who descended into the waters of baptism to show us the way to righteousness, and of the Soaring Spirit, who alights upon those who arise from these life-giving waters.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Faithful God, continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others—to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom. Use these offerings to

fulfill your righteousness among us. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 42:1 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:13-17 (*NRSVue*)

Richard: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Spirit Song"

UMH #347

Proclaiming

"Divine Initiative"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"Song of Hope"

TFWS #2186

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World