

"TAKE 10 - Worship While Away" (Sunday, January 11, 2026)

Share:

In the waters of baptism,

God marks us as kindred in his name.

In the waters of baptism,

the heavens open up and the Spirit pours out love.

In the waters of baptism,

God names us Beloved.

In the waters of baptism,

God claims us as his own.

Let us worship our living God who claims, calls, and commissions us.

Read these words from a hymn:

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways

Down Galilee's slow roadways, a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters, like soldier, scribe, and slave,
but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.

Arising from the river, he saw the heavens torn;
it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water, again a voice is heard.
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."

Read this scripture from worship:

Isaiah 42:1-9, *The Message*

¹⁻⁴ "Take a good look at my servant. I'm backing him to the hilt. He's the one I chose,
and I couldn't be more pleased with him. I've bathed him with my Spirit, my *life*.

He'll set everything right among the nations. He won't call attention to what he does
with loud speeches or gaudy parades.

He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won't disregard the small and
insignificant, but he'll steadily and firmly set things right. He won't tire out and quit. He
won't be stopped until he's finished his work—to set things right on earth.

Far-flung ocean islands wait expectantly for his teaching."

⁵⁻⁹ God's Message, the God who created the cosmos, stretched out the skies,
laid out the earth and all that grows from it, who breathes life into earth's people,
makes them alive with his own life: "I am God. I have called you to live right and well.

I have taken responsibility for you, kept you safe. I have set you among my people to
bind them to me, and provided you as a lighthouse to the nations, to make a start at
bringing people into the open, into light: opening blind eyes, releasing prisoners from
dungeons, emptying the dark prisons. I am God. That's my name. I don't franchise my
glory, don't endorse the no-god idols. Take note: The earlier predictions of judgment

have been fulfilled. I'm announcing the new salvation work. Before it bursts on the scene, I'm telling you all about it."

Matthew 3:13-17, *The Message*

¹³⁻¹⁴ 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!*"

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ 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, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."

Talk Together:

- ✂ What does it mean to you to be beloved by God?
- ✂ Recall times in your faith journey when you have felt close to the love of God and times when you have felt far from it.
- ✂ What does Jesus' baptism reveal?
- ✂ How does Jesus fulfill the prophet Isaiah's servant song?
- ✂ How are we claimed, called, and commissioned as God's servants?
- ✂ When has God helped you to act in ways that build peace and goodwill?
- ✂ How will you demonstrate this week that you are among "the beloved of your Lord?"

Pray together:

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the faith, hope, and love you give to us through the blessing of our baptism—claiming us as your beloved children, calling us to the path of discipleship, revealing to us the light of your glory. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, help us to follow you with faith, to trust in you with hope, and to serve you with love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.