



# Strathmore United Church

## January 12, 2025

### Baptism of the Lord

#### **Greeting & Welcome:**

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**P: and also, with you.**

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

L: We may come here with hope, with joy, with pain, or with the heaviness of life.

**P: We come together to be renewed and to comfort each other.**

L: We come to find hope and to receive courage and strength of our daily journey.

**P: Let us gather around the Christ candle, which was lit among the other candles on the Lords Table; a light for the world in the life of Christ. Amen.**

*Written by Heather Sandilands: Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 45; Modified; Used with permission*

**🎵 Centering song:** A Light Is Gleaming (Vs 1-2) \*VU #82

#### **Call to Worship:**

L: With unfailing love, God calls us by name.

**P: We long to be known and seek relationship with God.**

L: Come, find refuge. Take rest and comfort in God's shelter.

**P: We eagerly come, seeking shelter and security. Let us worship God!**

*Written by Sandra Litt: Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 43; Used with permission*

#### **Opening Prayer:**

*Written by Dora White: Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2021/22 page 42. Used with permission*

#### **Story Time for all ages:**

**🎵 Hymn:** God Is Here (Vs 1-2) \*VU #389

**Prayer of Confession:**

L: Creator God, when we think of water, we might remember that when you were first creating, the depths of the water were covered in shadowy chaos.

**P: But do we also remember that your Spirit swept over the waters, bringing light?**

L: We might remember that your voice thundered over the waters, breaking trees, flashing flames, and shaking the wilderness.

**P: But do we also remember that your throne is above the floodwaters of life and that your Spirit brings peace?**

L: We might remember that the waters of Jesus' baptism started his ministry, and the tears of his disciples flowed when his earthly ministry ended.

**P: But do we remember that the Holy Spirit descended, and your Spirit named him "Beloved"?**

L: We confess the faith that connects us to You, O God, and we confess the times we forget about our relationship with you in our silent prayers.

*(a time of silent confession)*

L: Amen.

*Written by Fern Gibbard; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 44. Used with permission*

**Words of Assurance:**


L: God's water brings us life.

**P: God's water brings us the Holy Spirit.**

L: God's water makes us beloved.

**P: The voice of God is connecting to us, today and every day.  
Thanks be to God.**

*Written by Fern Gibbard; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 44. Modified; Used with permission*

 **Hymn:** Lord, listen to your children praying (2X) \*VU #400

**Prayer of Illumination:**

*Written by Beth W. Johnston; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany; 2018-2019, page 51; Used with permission*

**Reading of Scripture:**


**Isaiah 43:1-7**

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## Message:


 **Hymn:** Like a Healing Stream \*MV #144

## Communion:

## The Offering Invitation:

*Written by Maria Szabone Berces; inspired by Feasting of the Word*

## M&S Story:

 **Dedication:** Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving \*VU #540


## Prayer of Dedication:

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 **Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow Me (Vs. 1-2;4) \*VU #567

## Commissioning and Blessing:

*Written by Robin Wardlaw; Gathering, Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2024/25 page 44-45. Used with permission*

 **Response:** Will You Come and Follow Me (Vs. 5) \*VU #567

## Passing the Peace of Christ

L: May the God of Peace go with you.

P: And also with you.

*Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship in the  
Library after the service.*

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