



**Scripture****Matthew 3: 13-17 (NLT)***Lorraine Miner***The Baptism of Jesus**

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

**Thanks Be to God!**

**Message**

"Come On In"

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**RESPONDING**

**Remembering Our Baptismal Vows**

UMH #34

**\*Hymn of Response**

"I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry"

FWS # 2051

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

**Offering Our Gifts to God****Offertory**

"Don't Know Why I Didn't Come"  
by Jesse Harris

*Molly MacMillan, piano*

**\*Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Faithful and Calling 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. (Matthew 3:13-17)**

**GOING FORTH**

**Announcements****\*Closing Hymn**

"Spirit Song"

UMH #347

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

## Postlude

“Come Sail Away with Me”  
by Dennis DeYoung

*Molly MacMillan, piano*

## -----PRAYERS-----

For Prayer Chain Requests, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org).

Prayer Requests: We thank God for the healing in the lives of people we've been praying for. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or the Prayer List, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org). Your requests will be listed in the bulletin for one month before being deleted. Please let us know of your improved condition or if you desire visitation.

### ***Coffee with the Pastor Continues January 21st***

Coffee with the Pastor will continue meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:45am in the Memorial Room. Come to pray, talk, and ask questions. All are welcome.

### ***Justice Seekers Co-Sponsor Free Viewing of “Sugarcane.”***

First Congregational Church of Ithaca (FCCI) and St Paul's Justice Seekers invite you to a free screening of the award-winning (Oscar-nominated) film *Sugarcane* on **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** at FCCI (309 Highland Road, Ithaca)

SUGARCANE follows a groundbreaking investigation into a Canadian Indian residential school, shedding light on a hidden story of cultural erasure while celebrating the resilience of Native peoples working to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma.

The film starts at 7 p.m. but you can also come at 6 p.m. for a light supper, and/or stay late for a brief discussion afterward. Please RSVP to: [RSVP for SUGARCANE at FCCI](#). Questions? Contact Nancy Potter, [potternancy20@gmail.com](mailto:potternancy20@gmail.com) or Karen Kaufmann, [karen.kaufmann1@gmail.com](mailto:karen.kaufmann1@gmail.com). Please feel free to spread the word!

## ***St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of January 11th, 2026***

### **Sunday, January 11th**

10:30am – Worship with Communion - Sanctuary  
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main Floor  
11:30am – Coffee/Reception Time – Memorial Room  
11:45am – Decoration Removal - Sanctuary

### **Monday, January 12th**

4:45pm – Lay Leadership Team – ZOOM  
7:00pm – Living Our Beliefs Study – Memorial Room/ZOOM

### **Tuesday, January 13th**

10:00am – Staff Meeting – ZOOM  
6:00pm – Finance Committee – ZOOM  
7:15pm – Trustees Meeting – ZOOM

### **Wednesday, January 14th**

### **Thursday, January 15th**

10:00am – Crafting Group – Durham Room  
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

### **Friday, January 16th**

Church Offices Closed

### **Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm – ICC Concert - Sanctuary

### **Sunday, January 18th**

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main Floor  
11:30am – Coffee/Reception Time – Memorial Room

**Children and Worship** – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. **Children ages 4 through 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).**

### ***Undeck the Halls Today After Worship***

We need volunteers at 11:45am to assist in taking down Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. If you can stick around to help, please do! Many hands make light work

### ***Small Study Group Starts Tomorrow***

Starting tomorrow evening at 7pm, we'll begin a small group study, "The United Methodist Way: Living Our Beliefs." We'll explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church. Meetings are hybrid. To sign up, contact Dee at [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org). For questions, email Pastor Alicia at [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org).

### ***United Women in Faith Meets January 22nd***

Email Wendy Kimble Dugan at [wendykaydee@gmail.com](mailto:wendykaydee@gmail.com) for questions and details.

### ***Coming in February: LGBTQ Vow Renewal at St. Paul's***

St. Paul's and our Reconciling Team will be offering the congregation a “Vow Renewal Ceremony” for those LGBTQ couples that were married in another state, country, or outside the church. Date to be announced. This ceremony is open to any already married same gender couple. For more info and to be included in the vow renewal, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: [Breedlove.Jami@gmail.com](mailto:Breedlove.Jami@gmail.com).

### ***Code Blue Needs***

The Code Blue program is in desperate need of breakfast items like bars, Pop Tarts, instant oatmeal, juice boxes, instant coffee, cocoa, or tea. Fruit cups as well as dried fruit and nuts are also welcome. Deposit in boxes in the foyer marked “Code Blue.” Questions can be directed to Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org).

#### **Our Staff**

**Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood** / Senior Pastor / [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Jami Breedlove-Crouch** / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dee Levine** / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Michelle Eells** / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / [business@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:business@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Maia Finkel** / Choral and Ensembles Director / [choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Molly MacMillan** / Pianist / [pianist@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pianist@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**David Kingsley** / Technical Director / [dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dorothy Preston** / Festival Chimes Director / [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Sue Orzel** / Custodian

### **St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

402 North Aurora St., Ithaca, NY

Find us at [www.stpaulsithaca.org](http://www.stpaulsithaca.org), Facebook and Instagram

**Church Office Hours are 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday – Thursday**

Office Phone: 607-273-5971 Pastoral Care Line: 607-269-5509

## **Down By the Jordan**

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(To the tune of "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty")

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:  
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"  
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I  
Judges and offers salvation."

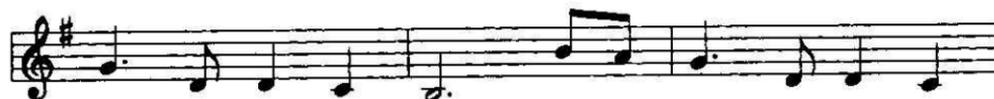
Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!

2051

I Was There to Hear  
Your Boring Cry

1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 3. "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was  
 5. "In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too  
 7. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold."



2. I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 4. If you find some - one to share your time and you  
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

D.C.

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

*Harmony*

God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Unison*

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

*Harmony*

Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are centered between the two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a style typical of a church hymn or cantata.

## Spirit Song

*Unison*      Gmaj7      Gmaj7/F#      Em7      A7 A7/G

1. O let the Son of God en-fold you with his  
 (2. O come and) sing this song with glad-ness as your

F#m7      Bm7      Em7

Spir - it and his love.      Let him fill your heart and  
 hearts are filled with joy.      Lift your hands in sweet sur -

A7      D      Dmaj7      Em7 F#m7      Gmaj7      Gmaj7/F#

sat - is - fy your soul.      O let him have the things that  
 ren - der to his name.      O give him all your tears and

Em7      A7 A7/G      F#m7      Bm7

hold you, and his Spir - it like a dove will de -  
 sad - ness; give him all your years of pain, and you'll

Em

G6/A

G/A

A7

D

C/D

D



scend up-on your life and make you whole.  
 en - ter in - to life in Je - sus' name.



*Refrain*  
Gmaj7

A7

A9/G

F#m7

Bm



Je - sus, O Je - sus,



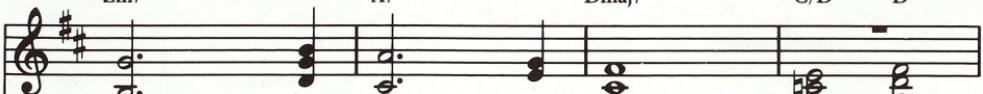
Em7

A7

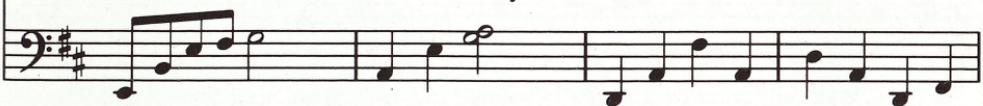
Dmaj7

C/D

D



come and fill your lambs.



Gmaj7

A7

A9/G

F#m7

Bm



Je - sus, O Je - sus,



Em7

G6/A

G/A

D

1

2



come and fill your lambs. 2. O come and

