

Devotion, Week of January 4, 2026
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

We are finishing the 12 days of Christmas, called Christmastide in the liturgical calendar. It ends with the arrival of the wise men, and finally, our manger scene at church is complete. All the decorations and the tree are coming down, to my sorrow, because I love Christmas decorations and lights. Before we enter “ordinary time,” we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord this coming Sunday. It will be a time to look again at John the Baptist and his relationship with his cousin Jesus, why he was performing baptisms out in the desert, and why Jesus decided he needed to be baptized. We will use some blue in the paraments to represent the water of baptism, and I urge you this week as we prepare for next Sunday to think about your own baptisms. Were you baptized as a baby, or like me, dunked completely as a “tween” when you made your declaration of faith? Regardless, someone made a covenant with God for you as a person to be raised in the faith. You were “dedicated” to God, as we used to say in the Baptist church. If you were baptized as an infant, your parents and the entire church made that covenant and vowed to raise you as a beloved child of God. If you were baptized later, you made that vow yourself. I’m not sure I really understood it at the age of 10, but I knew it was a holy moment.

As we move from the birth of the holy child to the baptism of the holy adult, let us remember that God sent his beloved Son to us to show us the way.

Jeanne