

**Applewood United Church  
an Affirming Congregation  
Sunday, January 11, 2026  
First Sunday after Epiphany  
The Baptism of the Lord**  
(\*please stand in body or in spirit)  
***Bold words are for all to share***

**Music for Gathering:** "Thanks Be To Thee"

**Territorial Acknowledgement and Announcements**

We understand that the land on which we live, work and worship is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory is mutually covered by the "Dish with One Spoon" Wampum Belt agreement. In the spirit of reconciliation, we commit to building relationships with all created beings, those who were here before, those who have settled, and those who continue to settle on this land. We commit to partnering with our Indigenous neighbours in being stewards and caretakers of God's Creation. Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we seek to live as reconciled people through our respect for, and our learning and understanding of, our Indigenous siblings.

**Centering Music:** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

**\* Call to Worship:** Spoken by Rev Alison (Acts 10:34-43)

Even now some ask,  
"Can we include these others  
and still be the church?" - Jeff Shrowder, 2026

***The haiku is a Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.***

**\* Opening Hymn:** "When Jesus Comes to be Baptized" VU 100

**\*Opening Prayer - The Baptism of the Lord**

One:      Baptized in the Holy Spirit, O Christ,  
                you're the fountain of life:  
**All:**      **Refresh us.**  
One:      You are the cleansing spring:  
**All:**      **Heal us.**  
One:      You are the well from which we drink and never thirst again:  
**All:**      **Fill us. Amen**

**Scripture readings:**

Isaiah 42:1-9 (Inclusive Bible)

Psalm 29 VU 756 with Refrain

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 (NSRV - Rev Alison)

One: For the word of God in Scripture  
For the word of God around us  
For the word of God within us

**All: Thanks be to God**

Choir: "Behold a New Joy"

**Reflection:** The Baptism of Jesus

\***Hymn:** "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness" VU 28

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offering of Music:** "Still My Soul"

\* **Hymn of Dedication:** "As With Gladness Men of Old" VU 81 verse 3 only

\* **Offering Prayer (together)**

All: Gracious and loving God, bless now these gifts and those offered through PAR or online, that they might be shared without partiality, among the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, the just and the unjust, the faithful and the unfaithful. Remind us that in giving freely as you do, O God, we embody your own self-giving nature. Thanks be to you. Amen

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer (Solo)**

"Notre Père, Notre Mère" TLUS 69

\* **Closing Hymn:** "Give Me a Name" TLUS 12

\* **Blessing and Sending Forth**

\* **Sung Amen:** "Great Amen" TLUS 18

**Music for Scattering**