

Welcome,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

As we gather today, we remember Jesus stepping into the waters of the Jordan — choosing to stand with us, choosing to begin His ministry among ordinary people, choosing to show us the way of humility and new beginnings.

May the same Spirit that rested on Him rest on us now.

May this hour open our hearts to God's presence.

And may we discover again that we are held, guided, and renewed by grace.

Let us praise and worship God together.

Dear Heavenly Father,

On this day we remember Jesus stepping into the Jordan River, choosing to stand with us in all our humanity. As the waters closed around him and opened again, you spoke words of deep tenderness: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We gather now longing to hear those words spoken over us, too.

Speak to us again, O God. Call us Your beloved. Let Your Spirit rest on us as gently as a dove, reminding us that before we accomplish anything, before we succeed or fail, we belong to You.

We pray for the courage to follow Jesus into the waters of new beginnings.

Where we are weary, renew us.

Where we are uncertain, guide us.

Where we are afraid, steady us with Your presence.

Where we feel unworthy, whisper again Your words of delight.

We pause now in silence, opening our hearts to your Spirit...

(silent prayer)

God of justice and mercy, shape us into people who reflect the One who came not to break the bruised reed or quench the faint flame. Make us gentle with one another. Make us bold in compassion. Prepare us to serve in ways that heal, restore, and uplift.

We pray for those who feel submerged by life's troubles, those who are grieving, ill, lonely, or overwhelmed.

Gracious God, we bring before You Inez Corey, grateful for Your provision in helping her receive the care she needed. We ask that You continue to lead and inspire her medical team with Your wisdom, so that they may offer the right treatment and support. May Your healing presence be upon Inez, restoring her in accordance with Your will.

We also lift Becky Sue as she faces a medical procedure in the coming week. Grant her a sense of calm and peace as she prepares. Surround her medical team with Your guidance and insight, that through their work, Your healing may be accomplished in her life.

We lift up Anne's sister, Ellen, who remains in the hospital in need of continued medical attention. Lord, we ask that Your comforting presence surround her during this time of recovery. Please reach out with Your healing hand and bring restoration and strength to her body. May Your care and compassion be evident through the hands of her medical team, and may she experience Your peace as she journeys toward renewed health.

We thank You for helping Cora recover so she can return to worship with her church community and ask that You keep her well. We also appreciate the healing You are giving Brad and pray You continue to give him strength so he can pursue what he has hoped to do for You and his loved ones.

We pray for our congregation that we may live as a people who remember our baptismal calling: to seek Your will, to walk in Your ways, and to shine with Your light in a world longing for hope.

And as Jesus rose from the river to begin His ministry, raise us again today—renewed, beloved, and ready to follow where You lead. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, your Beloved Son, and our Savior. Amen.