01-09-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

"To identify with all people, to depend upon God in prayer for the strength to live and to love, and to hear the affirmation of your God as the source of your calling and your purpose in life are the most enduring joys of life. These are the joys of our life together in Christ as the church."

- Robert M. Brearley

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Luke 3: 15-17; 21-22

Questions for Reflection —

- ➤ What does it mean to you to know you are a beloved child of God? How does claiming that identify affect your understanding of yourself? How does it affect your relationship with God? How does it affect the way you deal with times of challenge or struggle? Who in your life might need to hear words of encouragement and affirmation? How can you be an agent of God's love and grace to that person?
- ➤ How do your baptismal vows affect your actions in daily life? How are you a living witness to the Gospel? What does it look like for you to be a representative of Christ to the world? In what situations or under what circumstances do you encounter oppression and injustice? What can you do to bring transformation to those situations/circumstances?
- ➤ What does it mean to you to belong to the family of God that is the congregation of Wesley United Methodist Church? What does active participation in the life of the church look like for you? What have relationships with other people in the congregation meant for your spiritual journey? What, for you, are the joys of life together in the church? What are the struggles? What do you need in order to work through those struggles?

Daily Household Prayer

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.