

## 01-11-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

"At our baptism, God does not promise an easy road ahead but does promise to be with us, always, through whatever experiences we traverse next. Like Jesus experienced an evolution in the roles of his life as marked by his baptism, so too do our own ministries and responsibilities shift over time as God beckons us upon new waters."

*Kenji Kuramitsu*



Matthew 3:13-17

### Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean to you to renew your baptism? What does it look like for you to more fully claim your baptismal identity as a beloved child of God? What does your baptismal identity mean for your relationships within church community? How might we collectively as a family of baptized believers best live into the commitment to journey together? In what ways can we further affirm and encourage one another? How can we more fully embody the notion that Christ has opened the church to people of all ages, nations, and races?
  
- What difference does your identity as a baptized Christian make in your daily life? How have you known the transforming power of baptism in your life? What will help you remain open to ongoing transformation? What do you think God's vision for your life is presently? What gets in the way of your being all that God has called you to be? What spiritual practices help you to listen for God's prompting for your life's direction?
  
- With what gifts and graces have you been blessed? How have the ways in which you serve God and the ways in which you live out your discipleship changed over time? In what ways would you like to deepen your commitment as a follower of Christ? To what new role or ministry in the life of our congregation might God now be calling you? What do you need in order to take the next faithful step for you on the path to which God is calling you?

### Daily Household Prayer

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.