



Jesus steps into the water as one of us.

When Jesus is baptized, the heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And a voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Before Jesus heals anyone. Before he teaches crowds. Before he goes to the cross. God speaks love over him.

That matters for us.

So much of life teaches us that our value comes from what we do—how productive we are, how strong we feel, how independent we remain. But here, at the water, God reminds us that love comes first. Belonging comes first. Being God's beloved is not earned.

Many of us know what it feels like to be in a season

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Beloved at the Waters

Scripture: Matthew 3:13–17

When Jesus comes to the Jordan River, John the Baptist is surprised. John knows who Jesus is. He knows Jesus is holy, strong, and sent from God. John feels unworthy to baptize him. But Jesus steps into the water anyway.

Jesus does not come because he needs to be fixed or forgiven. He comes to stand with the people. He comes to join them right where they are—at the river, in their waiting, in their hopes and fears.

where we need help, where life looks different than we expected. Some days we may feel unseen or uncertain. Yet the same God who spoke at the Jordan still speaks today.

You are beloved.

You are God's own.

God is pleased with you—not because of what you accomplish, but because you belong.

Just as Jesus stood in the water, God stands with us in every season of life—through change, through weakness, through joy and through loss. We are never alone. The waters of God's grace still hold us.

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for calling us your beloved. When we feel uncertain, tired, or overlooked, remind us that we belong to you. Help us rest in your grace and trust that you are with us in every season. Amen.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Linda

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