

A DEEPER WAY
November 17, 2019

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Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Why might it be significant that Jesus--the Son of God!--was *first baptized by another*? What does this mean about Christ's understanding of community, leadership, and the spiritual life? What might that mean for a church that inspired by Christ?
3. Reflect on significant spiritual moments in your life. What happened? What was God teaching you, revealing to others, or showing to be true?
4. What are the "deep waters" (profound struggles) of today where Christ's presence is needed? How might the church go that "deeper way"?
5. Review the values that the South Elkhorn vision team has drafted that highlights what the "deeper way" of Christ might look like (below). What jumps out at you? How might these describe South Elkhorn (now or in the future)?

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Your giving is a spiritual act and can *inspire Christ's deeper way of love* at South Elkhorn.

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