

**Friday, May 12, 2023**

**INVITATION:**

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezek. 36:26-27)

*Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.*

**BIBLE SONG:** Psalm 119:1-8

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—

they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.

You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.

Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.

I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.

**PRAYER:**

Have I ever been the victim of someone's jealousy? Or have I ever acted out of jealousy in a way that caused others harm?

Lord, I pray for young adults. In this season of life of getting established in school, work, and family, help them live authentically and not anxiously compare themselves to others. Today I pray for a young adult I know.

Lord, I yield to the way that I am fearfully and wonderfully made – to the uniqueness of my giftings, my personality, and my calling. I repent of envy and jealousy. Today I pray for those I have a tendency to compare myself to, and I ask for their fruitfulness and flourishing.<sup>7</sup>

*Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.*

**INTERCESSION:**

\*for Cathy, our custodian who works to keep our building clean

\*for the seniors in our community

\*for those in the Central African Republic who face poverty in the midst of the country's civil war

*What else do you want to talk to God about?*

*How is God inviting you to respond?*

**BLESSING:**

May the God of love surround you,  
those loving arms embrace you,  
bring you comfort, hope and light.  
And as the day draws to a close  
God's peace permeate your heart,  
and bring healing through the night. Amen. <sup>5</sup>