God of Word, God of Spirit

You have allowed us access to your word and we are grateful.

You have revealed yourself to us through your story and we are amazed.

You have shared your love letter with us and we are filled with the hope of your grace and the wonder of your salvation.

Now Holy Spirit, draw us into your word and meet us in its pages. Let it be for us a profitable investment that we might live our lives in wisdom and in mercy.

God of Word, God of Spirit,

We thank you for the baptismal journeys of Kristi and Mary. You have given both of them a love of children and filled them with steady spirits and understanding hearts. Now meet them with each new day that your grace would abide with them and your beauty would rest upon the work of their hands.

We thank you for the new year of life you are giving Allison. Let her walk in your wisdom and be met with your peace. Let your Word be a lamp unto her feet and a light unto her path.

God of Word, God of Spirit,

What are we to say of those who have no access to your written word?

No knowledge of Jesus tender love?

Come to them through your Spirit and through your creation.

Fortify the minds of linguists who translate your word into tribal languages all over the world.

Bless the work of the Gideons. Let the Bibles they place in schools and hospitals and hotel rooms open your love to those who have no love and your peace to those who know no peace.

God of Word, God of Spirit,

We grow weary with each story of cancer. And now Deb, your faithful servant who has lived her whole life turned toward you! Really God?!

Let the stories of healing in your word give her hope. Through the prayers of your people bring her strength. Through the love of her little grandchildren bolster her joy. And along with Rob, Kevin, Barbra and Kaden remember and do not forget to touch them daily with your holy healing. Remove from their bodies every tumor and every troubled cell and support their minds, bodies and spirits with your voice of love.

God of Word, God of Spirit

We pray for those who have fled from their homes because of violence and fear; for those who have been abused on their journeys; for those who long for a safe place to live and breathe and raise their families. Let the stories in your word remind them that you are the God who delivers. Let leaders of nations be led by your word of welcome and your Spirit of hospitality that families may rest together in safe places of joy and grow together in refreshing places of peace.

God of Word, God of Spirit

Remembering your story of salvation we pray together as you taught us to pray…

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

**Amen**

