

Worship Resources

John 1:39 *"He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day." NRSV*

The lectionary text for this Second Sunday after Epiphany highlights the Gospel of John's description of the calling of Andrew and another disciple to follow Jesus. It is described as an invitation to 'come and see' where the Lord Jesus was staying and to learn from Him. That invitation beckons Christians and would-be disciples today. Similar to events of our current times, John's disciples were witnessing a transition of leadership and authority. John speaks to his disciples confirming his own witness of Christ's anointing as God's beloved Son and who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John understood his message and ministry was to prepare the Israelites to repent and to be baptized in order to be ready for God's next move in their salvation story.

Likewise, we find ourselves in a moment of transition - a changing of the guard in our governmental leadership and legislative authority. John's ministry of repentance did not discontinue as much as it lends itself to a deeper call meet 'Word' in Christ with the deeds of Christ. Christ's invitation to come and see beckons us come to the fount of every blessing to listen and to learn and to *do* the work of restoring God's beloved to community to health (not just wealth) and wholeness.

We celebrate the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this Second Sunday of Epiphany, January 15th. Dr. King's legacy of profound oration and advocacy of the message of Christ for restoring the dignity of all human beings is a worthy tribute to our interpretation of our call to be Disciples of Christ. Dr. King's public advocacy for civil and human rights invites us today to "come and see" that the way of Christ is God's will for His beloved. It is not the 'easy' way but it is the road to restoration of human dignity, the righteousness of God's love for all of humanity, and reconciliation with one another and with God our Creator.

Recently, while standing outside the movie theater after viewing the hit new biographical drama, *Hidden Figures*, I overheard a wife say to her husband, "Why is this stuff not in our history books?" He, sounding frustrated as he ran to get the car said, "I don't know. I just don't know!" I heard an invitation in their exchange. Come to your local school board meeting and let them see and hear that you want to advance a new narrative. You want your children, your neighbors' children and your community to know the complete teaching of our history. Invite yourself to advocate publicly for the importance for all children to see themselves a capable and valuable members of society and the beloved community for which Dr. King, John and Jesus prepared the way.

This King Holiday and every day, you are invited to be the presence of Christ in a world waiting to receive His light and love. In this season of the feast of Epiphany that remembers the light of the star that led the Magi to the Christ child, may that light shine through you. May you be inspired to accept the invitation to discipleship through the ministry of reconciliation given to each us in Christ.

May it be so . . .