

Sermons

Seekers recognizes that any member of the community may be called upon by God to give us the Word, and thus we have an open pulpit with a different preacher each week. Sermons preached at Seekers, as well as sermons preached by Seekers at other churches or events, are posted here, beginning with the most recent.

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[**“Isaiah’s Call and Ours” by Ken Burton**](#)



The fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

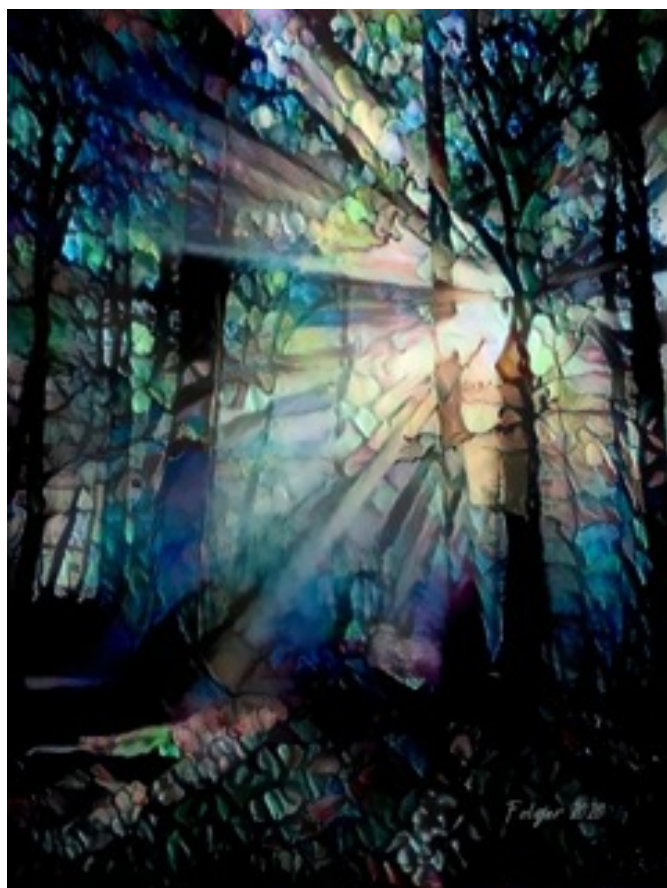
February 6, 2022

One of the responsibilities of the Celebration Circle Mission Group, of which I am a member, is to be sure that Seekers has a preacher every Sunday. Our usual approach to this is to ask you, the Seekers community, for volunteers, and you have recently received an email from Deborah about preaching during March, which coincides with Lent this year. I encourage your prayerful attention to that invitation. There are times, however, when we get within two or three weeks of a particular Sunday without a preacher for that Sunday. When this happens, it is the responsibility of one of us in the mission group to preach. This must be done, whether or not we have a particular interest in preaching that Sunday. It is a "duty", if you will, of Celebration Circle membership. In the multiple years that I have been a member of CC, I have never stepped forward to do this, always leaving that particular

duty to someone else in the group, but when the problem arose several weeks ago concerning this Sunday, I somehow felt it my duty to respond, so I did, and here we are.

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[A Sermon on Love by Anita Jackson](#)



The fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 30, 2022

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – And the Greatest of These is Love

In last week's reading from 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 we heard about the church in Corinth and all the spiritual gifts they possessed – speaking in tongues, prophecy etc. and yet Paul

ended the chapter by reminding them that Love was the greatest gift.

Today we heard 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 – the Love Chapter – you’ve probably heard it hundreds of times – everyone knows it – How many of you used it at your wedding? I know I did

Paul tells us that love is the greatest of all and demonstrates the supremacy of love over all other things as the measure of our lives. This entire chapter is one of the most beautiful and meaningful passages in all of Scripture.

Verses 1-3 answer the “**How**” question: “How does God measure our lives?” The answer is: “Love.” The song Seasons of Love from Rent – one of my all-time favorite shows says the same thing. Nothing we say, nothing we have, nothing we do has any lasting value apart from love. Love is the standard by which God measures our lives.

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“Jesus and Democracy” by Pat Conover



The third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 23, 2022

Last August I preached about the Deuteronomic revolution and the roles of prophets and priests in challenging authoritarian kings in favor of rule by Mosaic law preserved and interpreted by priests and prophets. The historical context for this sermon is the same, the return of Jews from Babylonian captivity, the battles to dominate local tribes that had taken over their previous lands, building the Second Temple and then the wall around Jerusalem. The hero in the August sermon was good King Josiah contrasted to bad king David.

The sources for the Nehemiah lectionary scripture for today comes a bit later in the same historical period, the return of Jews from Babylon. Ezra is the hero in this lectionary scripture, a prophet/priest who arose from the common people, not from a priestly line.

The stories in Ezra and Nehemiah were written down in the 4th century bce, a time when Jews were spreading around the Mediterranean and working out Judaism that was **not** focused on stories of a covenant of divine right to a promised homeland.

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[Jean Brown tells a story and weaves a call](#)



The second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 16, 2022

This morning, Jean Brown, who is a community member of the Dayspring Church, told the story of Sky Woman as recounted in the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She reminded us that stories help us find our place in the world,

and how the scriptures function in that way. Asking what seeds we might be carrying in this season, she spoke of her own story about discovering the Church of the Saviour, where small groups deeply listened to one another, in the spirit of remaining open and deeply present to the places where they found one another.

Jean continued with a story out of her own life, in which she came from southwest Virginia, where she was serving a small Presbyterian church, to attend a Come and See event. For many years after that, she tried to get that church to learn the CofS way of evoking one another's gifts. Eventually, she left that place and, taking a leap of faith, fell—or jumped—to DC. Surrendering herself to the Spirit, she hoped to become part of the love made visible in the world. It is up to us, she said, to say “yes, I am yours, show me the way.”

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“The Wheat and the Chaff” by Erica Lloyd



Epiphany/Baptism of Jesus

January 9, 2022

Let me start off with an apology: I'm not preaching about the wise men or the star or anything in the gospel reading you just heard! When I reached out to Deborah about preaching, I hadn't realized we would be celebrating Epiphany this Sunday and would not be reading from the normal gospel selection from the lectionary. Deborah encouraged me to go ahead – and if I had any lingering doubts about sticking with this sermon, they were put to rest when I discovered Marjory had shared a gospel reflection for Inward/Outward yesterday on the very same theme, without either of us knowing what the other was thinking.

So, since you haven't heard it yet, let me take a moment and share with you the lectionary reading that I will be preaching from, Luke chapter 3, verses 15-22: *As the people were filled*

with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

I know "the point" of this passage is Jesus's baptism, but reading this, what grabbed my attention was mention of the wheat and the chaff. "To separate the wheat from the chaff" is a Biblical image that has become a common idiom – to separate the valuable from the worthless, or as Merriam-Webster defines: "to judge which people or things in a group are bad and which ones are good."

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