A Message from Rev. Jackson for Sunday, January 17, 2021

As we arrive at the third Sunday in January of this new year, 2021, we see a world around us that is changing very quickly. The assault on our nation's Capitol has shaken our governmental foundations to the core. But, we must remember this: God is still in charge and all things will be made right through Him.

The Old Testament lesson is taken from I Samuel 3: God's calling of Samuel. Samuel was called out from the house of Eli. Eli and his sons had turned against the Almighty. The Philistines were waiting at the door to destroy and kill the people of Israel. Out of this violence and chaos, God calls Samuel to follow Him and deliver some very bad news to Eli. Because of Samuel's obedience, God would honor him and bless him for the rest of his life.

The Gospel lesson in John 1: 43-51 tells the story of Jesus calling Nathanael and Philip to come and be His disciples. Thanks to their obedience, their lives were changed for the better, forever. Jesus told them they would see greater things in the future. Once again, we see that obedience to God's call leads to great blessings.

Finally, in I Corinthians chapter 6, Paul reminds the Corinthian church that, "You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." The "price" was Jesus' death on the cross for them and for us. Paul was calling them to live as a changed people and to separate themselves from sexual sin. He wanted them to be obedient to their calling and "flee from sexual immorality".

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be obedient to Him and Him alone. The world may crash around us, but in Christ, we will remain standing when the storm is over.

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The Scripture for Reflection this Week

Old Testament I Samuel 3: 1-20

New Testament I Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel lesson John 1:43-51

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This Week's Memory Verse

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

Proverbs 3:5

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Hymn for Inspiration "Just As I Am Without One Plea"

"Just As I Am" was written by Charlotte Elliot in 1835, first appearing in the *Christian Remembrancer*, of which Elliott became the editor in 1836. The final verse is taken from Elliott's *Hours of Sorrow Cheered and Comforted* (1836).

Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot O Lamb of God, I come!

I come broken to be mended.
I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued.
I come empty to be filled.

I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb And I'm welcomed with open arms, praise God, just as I am.

Just as I am, I would be lost but mercy and grace my freedom bought and now to glory in Your cross, Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come.

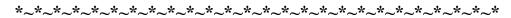
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Praise God, just as I am.

You can listen to this hymn by clicking on this link: https://youtu.be/wN5Y4YZmb_I



We invite you to click on this link http://www.fcc-worcester.org/worship-services.html to hear this week's recorded worship service. I thank Scott for his assistance in this outreach. We may not be able to worship together just yet, but please remember to lift one another in prayer this week.

God bless each of you, Rev. Bob Jackson