A Message from Rev. Jackson for Sunday, January 10, 2021

Greetings and Happy Epiphany in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

As we continue into the new year, please know that I am praying for each of you during these challenging times. I pray that the vaccine arrives soon for each of us so we can have a layer of protection against COVID 19.

This week's gospel lesson is from Mark 1:4-11. This scripture covers the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry of baptism and repentance. John was offering people a way out of their bondage to sin by repenting and receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Jesus is baptized by John and the work of his ministry begins.

Psalm 41 teaches us that God takes care of those who are suffering, those who are sick in bed and those who seek the Lord's mercy as they repent of their sins. Verse 9 reminds us that even though a friend may betray us, the Lord will never abandon us. His mercy raises us up no matter how defeated we may feel.

In Acts 19, Paul visits the Christians at Ephesus. They have received the baptism of John the Baptist. Paul proceeds to give them the baptism of the Holy Spirit. At this point, their ministry begins and they are empowered and strengthened to do more than they could ever imagine.

The Holy Spirit is still at work today! Do we allow that Spirit to use our gifts and talents for the glory of Jesus Christ?

Blessings,
Rev. Bob Jackson

~~*~

Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
But of all Thy rich graces this grace, Lord, impart
Take the veil from our faces, the vile from our heart.

All laud we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee,
And so let Thy glory, Almighty, impart,
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.

~~*~

Singing songs of thanksgiving
and proclaiming the Beloved's way.

O Loving Presence,
I cherish your dwelling place, my heart;
O, that I might radiate Love Divine.
Keep me always in your presence,
Ever-ready to praise your Name.
Make me holy, complete in You,
Write my name among the saints.

For I choose the path of peace and wholeness;
The Counselor is my strength and my guide.
Standing with equanimity
in heaven's blessed company,
I shall know Love and Peace
beyond the world's understanding.
Blessed are You, O my Beloved!

From Psalms for Praying, an Invitation to Wholeness
by Nan C. Merrill

~~*~