

Jeff's Jottings

Happy New Year

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Welcome to 2019. It's a new year and a new beginning, at least on the calendar.

My report to Presbytery in a few weeks will look back over the past year. Jottings looks forward. As in, what's new with you? Did you make any New Year's resolutions? What did they look like, and sound like? Do you want to lose weight? Be nicer? Get a new job? Get me a new job? (*No? Whew!*) Get out of debt? Did you resolve to make this year better than last year, or the year before that?

Reflections, resolutions, commitments. What we traditionally think about at this time of year is how to fix what's broken, in myself and others. But I wonder: what if the issue were not brokenness in need of fixing, but lack of wholeness in need of healing?

One of my resolutions this year is to read and reflect on the lectionary texts in advance of their Sunday reading. Spoiler alert: here are some of the words that you'll hear this first Sunday of the new year.

- Righteous
- Justice
- Prosperity
- Deliverance
- Light
- Brightness
- Rejoice
- Abundance

- Mystery
- Wisdom
- Boldness
- Confidence
- Wise men

Wouldn't you like a life filled with those words and what they stand for?

I would. And that is why I wonder if we might live those words — and God's world — more fully by spending a little less energy on trying to fix problems and a little more time on promoting God's wholeness. By looking for light. Embracing mystery. Pursuing justice. Living abundantly. Acting as one chosen; forgiven; redeemed. Finding something that makes your heart rejoice. Being a little less suspicious of one another's motives and a little more suspicious of the easy stories with which we denigrate others.

Happy New Year from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. I'm excited for 2019. We have so many remarkable people and remarkable assets in this presbytery, and I think we're going to work together this year in vital and creative ways. Will you be a part of that?