

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

May 26, 2021

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

MYSTERIOUS. This Sunday is Trinity Sunday. God known as Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Traditionally Trinity is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 3 in 1, 1 in 3. Each description is unique yet in a *MYSTERIOUS* way they are united in, by and through God's love.

The UCC Calendar lists the theme and scriptures for this Sunday as "*MYSTERIOUS Encounter*." Isaiah 6 is about the call of Isaiah as he encountered the *MYSTERIOUS* presence of God in splendor and power. It was humbling to Isaiah that God would reveal the holy to him. It was troubling times that surrounded Isaiah and he must have wondered what God wanted of him. Like Isaiah, how do we live faithfully in the midst of troubling times? How do we deal with our own struggles to be strength for others? Isaiah says, "*Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of Heavenly forces.*" (Isaiah 6:5, CEB). Isaiah hears God calling him into ministry and answers God, "*Here I am; send me!*" (Isaiah 6:8).

The story of Nicodemus as found in John 3 is familiar. John writes, "*He came to Jesus by night...*" Night offered dark cover, secrecy, and he could hide from encountering friends or other religious leaders. Jesus words were *MYSTERIOUS* and puzzling to Nicodemus. He wanted Jesus, whom he called "*Teacher*," to bring clarity to his faith.

Easter/Resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith. The powers of death, sin, and evil no longer hold us captive and make us less than what God intends us to be. The Easter Season prepared us for the Pentecost Season of action. Pentecost is the time of being filled with God's Holy Spirit to live as beloved children of God with amazing possibilities for abundant living. Resurrection needs a response in actions of love. The *MYSTERIOUS* and ever-present God fills us with the spirit of love that transforms us and we become the messengers of transformation to others. God's Spirit opens our eyes and we see the world through Jesus' eyes of love. We are changed and life will never be the same for us. Like Isaiah, the *MYSTERIOUS* presence of God is made real all around us. The church was born on Pentecost, filled with God's Holy Spirit to respond to God's call to act in ways of love. It is in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments that we, too, receive God's Spirit that calls us to make love an action of reconciliation, peace, harmony, caring, inclusion and so much more. "*Whom shall I send and who will go for us?*" The call is ever before me—us. May our response be: "*Here we are, individually and together; send me, send us.*" The *MYSTERIOUS* becomes faith in action! BLESSINGS ALWAYS.