

February 6, 2022

Epiphany 5

Community

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ *Luke 5:1-11*

One day, Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and continued to teach the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Rabbi, we have been working hard all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I will lower the nets.'

Upon doing so, they caught so many fish that their nets were at the breaking point. So they signaled to their friends in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until both nearly sank.

After Simon Peter saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Leave me Rabbi, for I am a sinner.' For Simon and his shipmates were amazed at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Second Reading ~ *from Father Richard Rohr in Where The Gospel Leads Us (Everything Belongs)*

God is clearly more comfortable with diversity than we are, and God's final goal and objectives are much simpler. God, and the entire cosmos itself, are about two things: differentiation and communion. Physicists seem to know this better than theologians and clergy.

If this were cheap liberalism, I would be merely arguing for personal rights, economic justice, or sexual freedom. If this were mere ideology, I would need to line up my credible arguments and proofs. I have very few. [I am] only a disciple of the poor man from Nazareth. He has made me content with mystery. He has made me less afraid of chaos. He has told me that control is not my task. He, like the cosmos itself, is about two things : diversity and communion. The whole of creation cannot be lying.