

**January 30, 2022**

**Epiphany 4**

# **Beginnings**

**Rev. Lori McPherson, Preaching**

## **First Reading ~ *Jeremiah 1:4-10***

Now the word of YHWH came to me and said:  
"Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you.  
Before you were born, I dedicated you.  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."  
I said, "But Sovereign YHWH!  
I don't know how to speak! I'm too young!"

But YHWH said,  
"Do not say, 'I am too young.'  
Now, go wherever I send you.  
And say whatever I command you.  
Do not fear anyone,  
for I am with you to protect you.  
It is YHWH who speaks."

Then YHWH touched my mouth and said to me,  
"Look, I am putting my words in your mouth.  
This day I appoint you  
over nations and territories,  
to uproot and to tear down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant."

## **Second Reading ~ *Luke 4:18-24***

"The Spirit of our God is upon me:  
because the Most High has anointed me  
to bring Good News to those who are poor.  
God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive,  
recovery of sight to those who are blind,  
and release to those in prison--  
to proclaim the year of our God's favor."

Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today, in your hearing, the scripture passage is fulfilled." All who were present spoke favorably of him; they marveled at the eloquence of the words on Jesus' lips. They said, "Surely this isn't Mary and Joseph's son!"

Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly you'll quote me the proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your own country the things we heard you did in Capernaum.' But the truth is, prophets never gain acceptance in their hometowns."