

**February 13, 2022**

**Epiphany 6**

# Deep Roots

**Rev. Lori McPherson, Preaching**

## **First Reading** ~ *Jeremiah 17:5-8*

YHWH says:

"Cursed are those who trust in human ways,  
who rely on things of the flesh,  
whose hearts turn away from YHWH.

They are like stunted vegetation  
in the desert  
with no hope in the future.  
It stands in stony wastes in the desert,  
an uninhabited land of salt.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God,  
with God for their hope.

They are like a tree planted by the river  
that thrusts its roots toward the stream.  
When the heat comes it feels no heat;  
its leaves stay green.  
It is untroubled in a year of drought,  
and never ceases to bear fruit."

## **Second Reading** ~ *Luke 6:17-26*

Coming down the mountain with them,  
Jesus stopped in a level area where there  
were a great number of disciples. A large  
crowd of people was with them from  
Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far  
north as the coastal region of Tyre and  
Sidon--people who had come to hear Jesus  
and be healed of their diseases, and even to  
be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the  
whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus,  
because power was coming out of him and  
healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

"you who are poor are blessed,  
for the reign of God is yours.

You who hunger now are blessed,  
for you'll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed,  
for you'll laugh.

You are blessed when people hate you,  
when they scorn and insult you  
and spurn your name as evil  
because of the Chosen One.

On the day they do so,  
rejoice and be glad:  
your reward will be great in heaven,  
for their ancestors treated the prophets the  
same way.

But woe to you rich,  
for you are now receiving your comfort in  
full.

Woe to you who are full,  
for you'll go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you'll weep in your grief.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,  
for their ancestors treated the false prophets  
in the same way.