

January 27, 2019
Epiphany 3 Another Way : Finding Yourself (Now)

Ancient Reading ~ Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues, and all were loud in their praise. Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

“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 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, this scripture passage is fulfilled.”

**Contemporary Reading ~ adapted from Macrina Wiederkehr in
“A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary”**

In the depths of my heart where God teaches me wisdom, I’m finally able to own the truth that God leaned down from heaven to show us how good we are, rather than to tell us how bad we are. To save sinners, yes, but above all to save us from the folly of our own self-hate. We have heard far too much about the bad news of our corruption. The good news is that our frailty is what God chose to be enthroned in during God’s sojourn on earth. It is an incredible compliment to us. God loved us enough to get inside our skin. God loved us enough to help us see our dignity and our value. We are like stars. Our light is the reflection of a greater light. We are beautiful to behold when we let God shine on us, in us, and through us.