

January 20, 2019
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday
EPIPHANY SEASON
Another Way : Hope

Ancient Reading ~ *Isaiah 43:1-7*

When You're Between a Rock and a Hard Place

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
Hear the word of YHWH
the One who made you in the first place,
the One who got you started, Israel:
"Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you.
I've called your name. You're mine.

When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you.
When you're in rough waters, you will not go down.
When you're between a rock and a hard place,
it won't be a dead end—

Because I am YHWH, your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I paid a huge price for you:
all of Egypt, with rich Cush and Seba thrown in!
That's how much you mean to me!
That's how much I love you!
I'd sell off the whole world to get you back,
trade the creation just for you.

"So don't be afraid: I'm with you.
I'll round up all your scattered children,
pull them in from east and west.
I'll send orders north and south:

'Send them back.
Return my sons from distant lands,
my daughters from faraway places.
I want them back, every last one who bears my name,
every body
Whom I created for my glory,