

January 24, 2020

Epiphany 3



New Beginnings

**Rev. Lori McPherson
Preaching**

First Reading ~ *Psalm 62:5-12*

In God alone my soul finds rest,
for my deliverance comes from God
who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress;
I will never be shaken.

Only in God--my deliverance, my glory--my refuge is in God.
Trust in God always, my people;
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.
Humankind is but a breath,
mortals are just an illusion.
Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:
they weigh less than a breath.
Do not trust in extortion,
or put false hopes in stolen goods;
do not set your heart on riches
even when they increase.

For God has said only one thing,
only two do I know:
that to God alone belongs power,
and that you, YHWH, are loving-- you repay all people according to their deeds.

Second Reading ~ *Mark 1:14-20*

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe the Good News!"

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind." They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

Third Reading ~ *from The Hill We Climb, Amanda Gorman*

Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree
and no one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to our own time,
then victory won't lie in the blade,
but in all the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to the glade,
the hill we climb,
if only we dare.

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.
It's the past we step into and how we repair it.