

Mark 1:21—28

After the calling of the disciples in last week's scripture, we enter right into an episode of Jesus teaching for the first time. The passage says that he speaks with authority. There are others that speak with similar authority throughout the bible. They have a different authority behind them when they speak. This same voice allows Jesus and The Prophets before him still is in our world today.

When you hear the word 'prophet', what kind of person comes to mind?

Prophets are unique figures; they are not typically the future-telling mystic that we often conjure in our minds. Instead, they tend to speak against injustice and exploitation. They are to bring the church back center on God (YHWH). They spoke truth to those in power.

Do you think that you have ever encountered a prophet like this, perhaps in reading or in their speech? Who are they?

These people can be anyone, there is no archetypical person that is a prophet. On inauguration day we had a wonderful young prophet speak. Amanda Gorman delivered a poem that needs to be listened to and relistened to. In those moments she was speaking not to predict the future but to demand progress from where we are now.

These prophets in our lives echo for us the words written in today's Old Testament passage (Deuteronomy 18:15-20) where God promises to raise up a prophet from among the people. We today are still having prophets rise up to speak to power and to reorient towards that which is Godly, including but not limited to racial reconciliation, ending poverty, loving our neighbor, and fighting oppression in general.

When you read or listen to something inspiring, take some time to consider if you are encountering the prophetic voice. You can ask yourself these questions.

Are they speaking against injustice?

Does their message align with what I think about God?

Does what they are saying make me want to rethink about who I believe God is?

What am I inspired to do?

Is there someplace already doing the work that I am inspired to do? If yes, how do I get involved?