

THE FORECAST

A Bi-Weekly Newsletter

JANUARY 13, 2021

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

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"AT HEART..."

Jesus offers his call of discipleship to John the baptizer, first. Andrew, who's apparently part of John's posse, sees Jesus and trusts his message. Then Andrew goes to tell his brother, Simon (Peter). Peter sees Jesus, and believes him too. Then there's Philip, lucky Philip - Jesus calls him up personally; and Philip goes right on sharing what he's seen, so then Nathanael enters the action. That's how John's Gospel starts the invitation: one to another to another...to you and to me. "**Come and see,**" say the first disciples. And Jesus, for his part, responds, "**You'll see greater things than these!**" And that sounds to me like, "You ain't seen nothing yet..."

Hard to believe, isn't it? That the call of Jesus was as simple as one introduction flowing into another and another, on and on. So much for mass marketing. No mailers, no website, Instagram, Twitter or Facebook either. The call of Jesus is still that simple, you know? One introduction of Jesus to another, then another. Perhaps with words. More often without them, I do believe.

All of which gets me to thinking about hospitality. In this difficult season, hospitality, especially as we know it in our hometown of New Orleans, has certainly morphed and adapted. Less breaking bread and sipping beverages together (at least in-person). More digital gatherings. By Zoom meetings or Facetime, through phone calls, texts and handwritten notes, we're still doing our best to introduce one another to Jesus - his love, his peace and his demonstration of justice. Hospitality marks the inauguration of Jesus and his good news. Just as soon as John said, "Hey, would you look at this guy? The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" The good news cracks open the world and never stops inviting us into it - to sense his presence and to share it.

Ivan Illich once opined: "At heart, hospitality is a helping across a threshold." At heart, that's still our task - to help others across a threshold, the one where Jesus opens his arms and says, "Yes, you too. Welcome. Welcome home..."

On and on,
Jay

PLEASE NOTE

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

**ONLINE LIVE ON
FACEBOOK AT 10A.**

**ON-SITE WORSHIP
IS SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.**

[www.facebook.com/
raynenola.org/live](http://www.facebook.com/raynenola.org/live)

Please note: our
office staff is
working remotely.

PRAYER VIGIL

"A Day of Prayer"

Please join the congregations of Touro Synagogue, St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church and Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church in a time of prayer: for our nation, for our community, for healing, and peace with justice.

Beginning **Sunday, January 17 at 5p** through **Monday, January 18 at 5p.**

Sign up: 20 minute time slots available.

The day of prayer will culminate in a reading of the Letter from a Birmingham Jail by Martin Luther King, Jr. as a community. We will gather at 5p via zoom for this time of meditation and prayer. We are looking for people to sign up to read one paragraph of the letter.

Call Marissa to sign up, 318-564-4879 or get the Zoom link.

PRAYER

The feast of the wise men, the magi, the three kings, following a star, expecting to find another king but instead the star led them not to a palace but to an isolated place, a manger, and a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Imagine their surprise! They might have thought, "We came all that way for this?" Stars lead us to unimaginable places; they lead us to places we would not choose to go; they catch us by surprise; we cannot resist them; they are like magnets. Stars inspire dreams. The wise men, the magi, the kings, listened to their dreams, and in their dreams they were told to go home 'a different way' to avoid the curse of Herod. "And they departed for their country by another way." What is that 'other way' for us in this very unsettling new year? Do we listen to our daydreams and our night dreams which, if we allow them, might lead us to another way -- a way of peace (not war), a way of love (not hate), a way of generosity (not greed), a way of tenderness (not terrorism). Do we listen to our dreams? Where will the Star lead us this year? Let us share our gold, frankincense, and myrrh generously with one another and with our world during this new year. Amen.

**Written by Libby Adams*

LECTIONARY

A weekly set of Scripture readings.

January 17

1 Samuel 3:1-20 ~ Psalm 139
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 ~ John 1:41-43

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 ~ Psalm 65:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 ~ Mark 1:14-20

FLOWERS

Our altar flowers are a beautiful way to participate in Worship - even from afar. Flowers can be given in honor or memory of someone. They can also simply be for the glory of God!

Almost all of 2021 is available.

If you'd like to purchase the flowers for a coming week, please contact Susie. You can call the office and leave a message (899-3431) or by email (susie.vanderkuy@raynenola.org).

WORSHIP

ONSITE WORSHIP SUSPENDED

Rayne has suspended our ON-SITE worship gatherings. Our 10a online service continues and we will notify you when our 8:30a and 11:30a services resume on-site.

Please continue to join us on Facebook Live at 10a as we worship together while apart.

REMOTE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Please note, the church office (which is still remote or by appointment) will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observation of MLK, Jr. Day. In case of emergency, please contact Jay Hogewood, 225-772-3550.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for healing of –

**Ray Cook, Mac Hyman, Sylvia Frey, Bee Norris,
Stephanie Stennett, Chuck Pate, Debbie Strickland,
Dan Sikes, Rick Hammontree, Jim Jeter,
Andrew McLetchie, Robin O'Bannon, Kevin Horne,
Barbara Everett & Judy Mastainich.**



PRAYER REQUESTS

James 4:8 reminds us, *“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”*

In this time of social distancing, comfort is found sensing the nearness of the Creator.

If you would like to share prayer requests,
email them to Pastor Marissa marissa@raynenola.org.
Or mail a note to the church addressed with "Attention: Marissa."

Please indicate if the request is public (shared in the newsletter)
or private (supplied to the Intercessory Prayer Group).