

January 13, 2021

Dear Church,

When I was in college, I had a great campus job. I got to work as a program intern for the Center for Vocational Reflection. Yep, we had one of those. I got to help plan all kinds of events for the student body that would invite big questions and deep reflection. One of the events we planned in my time there was an evening lecture from Shane Claiborne, a theological thinker and writer who helped to birth the new monasticism movement. I was totally geeking out.

Of all the stories that Shane shared that night, the one that most captivated my twenty year old mind was about working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta. He talked about how, when people inquired as to her work in India, Mother Teresa's response was most frequently, "come and see" ...and he took her up on that invitation.

We hear this invitation echoed in our Scripture readings throughout the season of Epiphany. God calls Samuel in the middle of the night, God brings order from chaos, God employs creation to bring Jonah to his rightful calling in Nineveh, God calls Jesus the "beloved Son." Phillip's invitation to Nathaniel in John's gospel to "come and see" echoes God's invitation to us. It is a call to action and a summons to show up. We are not bid to stay and to watch, but to *come* and to *see*. God wants us in the middle of the action where we can be witness to what God is doing; where when Jesus uses mud to restore sight to the blind, or John baptizes with water in the river we are bound to get a little dirty and a little wet too.

The call of God is always to love, and it is incumbent on us to remember that love is not just a state of being, love is a verb. The way of discipleship is the way of action, of doing, of being part of something, of discovery, of being surprised, of understanding and of showing up.

So, my friends, in this season of Epiphany, in this season of light and insight - listen. Listen to where God is inviting you to *come* and *see*. And have the courage to answer that call. Begin your practice of showing up.

Peace be with you,

- Pastor Emily