Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

## Isaiah 62:1-5

## The Vindication and Salvation of Zion

62For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
   and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
   and her salvation like a burning torch.
2The nations shall see your vindication,
   and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
   that the mouth of the Lord will give.
3You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
   and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
4You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
   and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
   and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
   and your land shall be married.
5For as a young man marries a young woman,
   so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
   so shall your God rejoice over you.

# Psalm 36:5-10

5Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
   your faithfulness to the clouds.
6Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
   your judgements are like the great deep;
   you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

7How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
   All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
8They feast on the abundance of your house,
   and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
9For with you is the fountain of life;
   in your light we see light.

10O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
   and your salvation to the upright of heart!

## 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

12Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. 3Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

## John 2:1-11

## The Wedding at Cana

2On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ 4And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ 5His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ 6Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. 8He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it. 9When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ 11Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**Green Miracles**

The season of Epiphany is about sudden insight, revelation, unexpected startling moments, and our ongoing, growing understanding of faith and how it impacts us and in the midst of climate change how we can impact the world.

This Sunday’s gospel story is commonly called the wedding at Cana, the story of Jesus turning water into wine. Not exactly an earth-shattering type of miracle.

So, the question that I wrestled with this past week was, why perform what seems like a “parlor trick” and take time for that when there should be more urgent things on Jesus “to do list” other than turning water into wine?

In the story, water, so cleansing, purifying and refreshing to both the body and soul is changed into the wine of celebration. For those of us who are actively engaged in caring for creation, clean water is critical. Water is at a premium for many people around the world. Clean water even more precious.

At some point I realized that the small caring act might symbolize the potential we all have for making a difference each in our own little way. And like further miracles, sometimes big ways. Everything from saving water when you brush your teeth to preventing pollution from underground natural gas storage counts, to signing petitions that will lead to more environmentally caring legislation.

We all have the potential at any given moment, to be or perform, on a sliding scale of “green miracles”, smaller miracles, bigger miracles and miracles that fall somewhere in between. But the bottom line, is that taking action that reduces the impact we have on the planet can be as varied in their own way as the miracles performed by Jesus.

As we hear in the reading from Corinthians, *4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good…. each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.*

Each person’s talents, gifts and interests combined in marvelous and wonderful ways complement each other so together we can have a positive impact on the planet.

Like the servants had at the wedding, we know that miracles can occur, but they can only happen only if we are on board.

May we all be the miracle in the climate crisis.