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Pastor Jim Coyl

The Beach Church Podcast

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany.**

**January 18, 2026**

### Welcome

#### **Call to Worship - Inspired by Psalm 40:1-11**

**Leader:** We waited patiently for the Lord;

**People:** God inclined to us and heard our cry.

**Leader:** The Lord lifted us out of the pit and set our feet on solid ground.

**People:** God put a new song in our mouths, a song of praise.

**Leader:** Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.

**People:** We delight to do God's will; God's truth is within our hearts.

**Leader:** God's steadfast love and faithfulness never fail.

**People:** With grateful hearts, we come to worship the Lord.

## **Hymn**

### **Scripture Reading** John 1:29-42 - Christ revealed as the Lamb of God

1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 1:30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 1:31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 1:32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 1:33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 1:34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." 1:35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 1:36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 1:37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 1:38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 1:39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 1:40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 1:41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). 1:42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

## **HYMN**

**Sermon**                    "Come and See"                    Rev. Jim Coyl

### **Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

## **Hymn**

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

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### **Devotional Reflection — Behold and Come See - John 1:29-42**

John the Baptist does not point to himself. Instead, he bears witness: “Here is the Lamb of God.” In John’s Gospel, faith begins not with certainty but with testimony. Someone sees, speaks, and invites another to look again. As Karoline Lewis reminds us, discipleship in John is less about having all the answers and more about responding to a witness who directs our gaze toward Jesus.

When Jesus turns and asks, “What are you looking for?” he poses a question that still echoes today. The first disciples answer with a question of their own: “Where are you staying?” Jesus responds simply, “Come and see.” According to Raymond Brown, this moment reveals the heart of Johannine faith—an invitation into relationship, into abiding presence rather than abstract belief.

Andrew’s response is immediate: having encountered Jesus, he goes and tells his brother. Encounter leads to proclamation. Witness multiplies.

This passage reminds us that faith often unfolds through small, faithful gestures—pointing, inviting, sharing. We are not asked to be the light, only to testify to it. Like those first disciples, we are called to behold, to follow, and to say to others, “Come and see.”

### **Daily Lectionary Readings**

**Monday, January 19, 2026:** Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40;

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026:** Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4;

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026:** Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17;

**Thursday, January 22, 2026:** Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24;

**Friday, January 23, 2026:** Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10;

**Saturday, January 24, 2026:** Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32;

### **Guided by a Different Star**

As the church moves from the glow of Christmas into the light of Epiphany, Matthew's story of the Magi invites a searching question for us: What star are we following, and whose road are we walking? Guided by a strange and gracious light, the Magi encounter the Christ child—and then, warned in a dream, they refuse to return to Herod. Instead, Scripture tells us, "they left for their own country by another road."

Epiphany is not only a story of gifts and wonder; it is a story of courageous discernment. Faced with a fearful ruler and an uncertain future, the Magi choose loyalty to God over allegiance to familiar power. Their encounter with Christ rearranges their priorities and reroutes their path. The story suggests that meeting Jesus often calls us to leave behind what feels safe, expected, or comfortable in order to follow where the Spirit leads.

Many congregations find themselves at a similar crossroads today—discerning new pastoral leadership, navigating changing communities, caring for aging buildings, or imagining new forms of ministry and mission. In these moments, the Spirit may whisper the same truth spoken to the Magi: You cannot go back the same way you came.

Epiphany invites us to ask faithful questions together: What voices or fears claim our loyalty instead of Christ? What star are we truly following? And what "other road" might God be opening for us right now?

Choosing another road does not mean abandoning who we are. Like the Magi, we return to our own communities—but changed by Christ, guided by love, and freed to walk new paths of justice, hope, and joy.

— An Excerpt from a letter by Rev. Latrell Harrison, Associate Conference Minister  
Florida Conference United Church of Christ