

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

When I went off to college many moons ago, it was the first time I was in a non-parochial setting. To put it mildly, I felt lost. Somehow several of us found our way to a group of fellow students who were deeply involved in the movement of the Holy Spirit. Weekly prayer meetings with a very eclectic and ecumenical group of folks became a guiding light. I experienced a deeper awareness of the Scriptures and learned many hymns that were the foundation in Protestant worship. I knew the words to AMAZING GRACE and HOW GREAT THOU ART long before they became staples in the Catholic tradition.

This week's readings brings me back to some of the richness of those days. John touches on Jesus' baptism just enough to tell us that the Holy Spirit descended and remained with Jesus. When I was touched by the Holy Spirit I too, knew I was called to be faithful, called into fellowship and to be a light to the nations. But we're called not to stop there but to be united in the same mind and the same purpose according to Paul.

I know many of us are disconcerted by the on-going messages of All Things New, myself included. But the messages are clear today: God is steadfast in faithfulness and love and I am called to be of the same mind and the same purpose and what is that? I am sent to proclaim the Gospel. What ought that look like in January, 2023? I'm not certain but I do know the Holy Spirit is with me, with us...Come Holy Spirit, fill me with your wisdom and grace.

Kathy Stock