



LIVING THE LIFE

RECHARGE! LIVING THE LIFE

LIVING ON PURPOSE

January 4, 2015

Today is Epiphany, and as we celebrated last Sunday in worship, it is the celebration of the Magi's visitation to the Holy Family. We also discussed how in Matthew 2: 12 we are told that after their visit the Magi went home "by another road" and that serves as a metaphor for the spiritual life: once we meet Jesus, we are never the same.

We also discussed how with the Incarnation we find God living in the world differently. No longer is God the "big deal" who smites people or forces people into behavior. Instead God became one of us in the person of Jesus—a vulnerable baby. Sometimes, we have to admit that we want God to do things—solve problems, heal the sick, fight injustice, get rid of the bad guys. But Christmas and Epiphany remind us that God doesn't work that way anymore. Instead God invites us to join with the Holy Spirit and participate with God.

This week's devotional practice is to make a list of what you would like God to do and then write down how God might invite you to help.

This really isn't as odd as it seems. One of the tenets of Wesleyan theology can be traced back to the early church writers Athanasius who described how "God became human so that humans might become God." Now, before you think that we are supposed to go around smiting people or "acting like God," Athanasius was really talking about "participating in the divine." In this sense the work of the Holy Spirit empowers us to be co-workers with God. Some describe this as we are the "hands of feet" of God in the world.

I do hope you will take some time to think about how you might participate with God in what you hope God will do in the world.

Pastor Scott