

From the Desk of Pastor Ted...

January 3, 2010

I Begin a Sermon Series Today: *Getting to Know 'J' and 'P'*

Doing a series of sermons is not something I typically do. My normal approach is to engage with the scripture passages that are part of the weekly lectionary. I begin the series with today's focus on the idea of "Jesus as God's Word, incarnate into human life". Today's gospel reading, John 1:1-18, is a primary biblical text in Christian thinking when considering the church's experience of God-in-Christ. They are familiar words and have been a part of the readings during Christmas for a long time. This will begin further sermons on God's Word.

During the next weeks (the church season of Epiphany) I'll be presenting stories from the book of Genesis. The sermons will have more of a teaching quality as I try helping people see the possibility of at least two distinctive writers in Genesis who lived nearly five hundred years apart in the history of Israel. Theologians throughout the twentieth century have referred to these two sources as the "Jahwist" and "Priestly" writers (or "J" and "P" for short.) Their perspectives and conceptions of God and God's relationship with humans are quite different from each other and from our own modern-day understanding. We can learn to appreciate their differing perspectives and can come to experience scripture in new and different ways.

A New Website to Support This Sermon Series: PadrePoint.org

At this writing, I've not created any posts or pages on my new website but I will begin doing so very soon. This will become my primary website once I get it started. I plan to build and maintain the site for a long time. I'll be using it as a supplement to the sermon series I'm putting together.

Connecting Sunday Sermons to Wednesday Evening Education

I'll be continuing some of the themes and ideas described in Sunday sermons during weekly education classes on Wednesday evenings. I'll do this throughout Epiphany. The Sunday sermons will illustrate some of the basic ideas and I'll provide more expansive and detailed information on each of the following Wednesdays (classes begin at 6:00 PM). I can offer an afternoon class if there is interest. While the Wednesday classes will be part of the confirmation program, I'm confident that most people will find the information to be new. JOIN US!!

Wednesday Fellowship Potluck (5:15) and Epiphany Party (6:00)

Join us in the monthly 1st Wednesday fellowship meal on Wednesday, Jan. 6. I'll provide some main dishes as a way to begin the potluck. We'll have grace at 5:15 PM in the gym. Join us with whatever you'd enjoy sharing as a potluck contribution. If you don't have time to prepare something, join us anyway. There is always enough food and your presence is appreciated.

Then, following the meal, we will have an "Epiphany Party" at 6:00 PM. I'm not yet sure what that means exactly but I'll work on it this week. We'll also "de-decorate" the sanctuary as a part of the "party". I hope to prepare traditional hands-on activities (such as folding paper stars) and a short liturgy will be a part of the evening's event. JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY!!

I Have a New Cell Phone Number and Email Address

I needed to replace my cell phone and establish another email address since both were having problems. My cell phone number is now different from that printed on the bulletin covers for the next couple months.

My new cell phone is: **920-573-1604**

My new Email is: **PadrePoint@gmail.com**

My new website is: **PadrePoint.org**