

“Daring to Dream Bigger”

Although all three of the Synoptic Gospels include a version of this story, only Luke shares it near the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, following his baptism and his time of temptation in the wilderness.

Reading from Isaiah 61 Jesus announces it as his purpose or mission statement, his agenda, indeed, his dreams for serving humanity, as Messiah.

His Spirit led calling would be to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the year of God’s favor.

In a 2007 article for *The Presbyterian Outlook* the Rev. Joan Gray wrote, “*When you really think about it, this dunamis [or power] of the Spirit is the only thing the early church had going for it.*

“It had no buildings, no budget, no paid staff, and very few members.”

Noting that most of our churches have all of those things, Rev. Gray asked, “*but do we have the power of the Holy Spirit? How can we know if we have it?*”

As Jesus embraced his calling to a Holy Spirit led mission and ministry it gave him something to do as our Ever-Creating God in human form on earth and a time to do it.

On his way to Jerusalem and the cross, his mission and ministry would be one of creatively offering hope, healing, dreams, possibilities, freedom from oppressive circumstances and structures, and a rebalancing of human life.

It’s notable that as Jesus embraced Isaiah 61 as his calling to ministry, he left out the second part of verse 2, which says, “*and the day of vengeance of our God.*”

Jesus' Spirit led ministry would NOT include enacting vengeance like the current occupant of the White House fueled resulting in the insurrection and attempted coup we watched with horror unfold in our nation's capitol this past week.

Jesus' Spirit led ministry would instead be focused upon bringing healing and justice, along with showcasing God's dreams of new and holistic ways for humanity to live together through modeling Divine love and care for all and especially for those who struggle to provide the basics for themselves and their households.

As followers who continue the Christ's mission and ministry in the world, our calling is to discern the ways the Spirit is leading us to imaginatively and creatively offer hope, healing, dreams, possibilities, freedom from oppressive circumstances and structures, and a rebalancing of human life in our time.

In the materials for this worship series Dr. Marcia McFee encourages blue sky thinking, stating, *"God's dreams love the future into existence.*

"With God, 'the sky is the limit,'" she writes. Thus, she continues, "We can dare to dream bigger.

"We can contribute our creativity to" God's dreams of loving our church's future into existence.

Embracing Trinity's 21st century calling to a Holy Spirit led mission and ministry means daring to dream bigger, beyond ourselves and beyond any of our presently perceived limitations.

It means claiming our Spirit led calling to imaginatively and creatively improve human life for one another and those God provides to us to serve with and in our collective behalf.

Following worship next Sunday, I will begin leading our third round of transitional conversations, “Seeking God’s New Thing: What is the Mission and Ministry God is Calling Us Toward?”

As we together begin to dare to dream bigger, two of the **“blue sky”** questions the Session and I are inviting you to respond to are:

In your imagination what are your dreams for Trinity Presbyterian Church, who are the people we will be worshiping and serving with, what is the church doing, how does it feel to be a part of its mission and ministry in 2025?

And then the follow up question will be:

How might we foster a spirit of exploring and adventure to move Trinity toward such a 2025 vision?

I hope you’ll join with us in daring to dream bigger!

Amen.