

A Study Guide for January 22nd



Please read Psalm 27:1, 4-9 and Matthew 4:12-23 and use these notes to prepare for Sunday morning worship.

Sermon Focus: New Year, Same Promises: Ministry

Key Verse: "Light, space, zest - that's God! So, with God on my side I'm fearless, afraid of no one and nothing." (Psalm 27:1 The Message)

Have there been times in your life when your faith in God's love and nearness calmed your fears? Does the knowledge that God is near now help you to face the uncertainties of the future and to respond to God's call to follow Jesus?

Key Verse: "From there Jesus went all over Galilee. He used synagogues for meeting places and taught people the truth about God. God's kingdom was his theme - that beginning right now they were under God's government, a good government! He also healed people of their diseases." (Matthew 4:23 The Message)

How has "Church" been for you a "meeting place" where you learned about Jesus, the "truth about God" and the coming of God's kingdom? Earlier in this passage, Jesus called persons to follow him. Do you feel called by Jesus to have a part in the building God's Kingdom? Does it include healing the brokenness of others?

We live in a rapidly changing world. It is difficult, perhaps impossible for many of us, to keep up with all the changes. That can be scary. Some things do not change such as the steadfastness of God's love and the call by God for us to assist in the building of God's Kingdom which will require patience and taking time for reflection. Is not our ministry to take time to love, to care, to hope, to trust, to build relationships and communities based on the life and ministry of Jesus?