

**“ERUPTION”**  
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**OPEN DOOR MCC**

Gleanings from the Liturgy

January 28, 2018

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**Opening Words:** *(from Khalil Gibran)*

Then said a teacher, "Speak to us of Teaching."

And the Prophet said:

No *one* can reveal to you anything but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of our knowledge.

***Teachers* who walks in the shadow of the temple, among *their* followers, give not of *their* wisdom but rather of *their* faith and lovingness.**

**If *they are* indeed wise *they* does not bid you enter the house of wisdom, but rather lead you to the threshold of your own mind.**

*Astronomers* may speak to you of *their* understanding of space, but cannot give you *their* understanding.

*Musicians* may sing to you of the rhythm which is in all space, but cannot give you the ear which arrests the rhythm nor the voice that echoes it.

And *those* who *are* versed in the science of numbers can tell of the regions of weight and measure, but cannot conduct you thither.

**For the vision of one lends not its wings to another.**

**And even as each one of you stands alone in God's knowledge, so must each one of you be alone in *your* knowledge of God and in *your* understanding of the earth.**

**Welcome**

Bless each one who is here safely, and blessings on all who are away this week. Thank you for coming to Open Door MCC on the third Sunday of Epiphany!

MCC and Open Door have a special outreach to vulnerable communities and those in solidarity: Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We are and want to be community where everyone is the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God's table. This morning I'm grateful for each one of you.

Epiphany, the Greek for “manifestation” or “striking appearance” is the season during which we celebrate the ways God makes God'sself known to us. Epiphany is illustrated primarily with the story of the magi led by the star to find the Jesus toddler to bring gifts, and the themes we celebrate in these weeks are those of starlight and illumination, and inclusion. The magi are revered as pagans, eunuchs, and national foreigners and outsiders. Matthew's story demonstrates the gospel's interest in embracing gentiles and bringing the good news to all people. Happy Epiphany!

**Opening Prayer** – *(from Bishop Ken Untener)*

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The *basileia* is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of

saying that the *basileia* always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for *God's* grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker...  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

### **Passing the Peace**

*Weave, weave, weave us together.*  
*Weave us together in unity and love.*  
*Weave, weave, weave us together.*  
*Weave us together, together in love.*

### **First Reading:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then God replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak, that prophet shall die."

Here ends the lesson. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Reading:** Psalm 111 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Praise GOD! I will give thanks to God with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of GOD, studied by all who delight in them.

**Full of honor and majesty is your work, God, and your righteousness endures forever.**

You have gained renown by your wonderful deeds; You are gracious and merciful.

You provide food for those who fear you; you are ever mindful of your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

**The works of your hands are faithful and just; all your precepts are trustworthy.**

They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.  
You sent redemption to your people; you have commanded your covenant forever. Holy and awesome is your name.  
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
**God's praise endures forever.**

**Second Reading:** Mark 1:21-28 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching, with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Here ends the lesson. **Thanks be to God.**  
This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

(Khalil Gibran)

Trust your wound to a teacher's surgery.  
Flies collect on a wound.  
They cover it,  
those flies of your self-protecting feelings,  
your love for what you think is yours.  
Let a Teacher wave away the flies  
and put a plaster on the wound.  
Don't turn your head.  
Keep looking  
at the bandaged place.  
That's where  
the Light enters you.  
And don't believe for a moment  
that you're healing yourself.  
Take our gifts, God, and use what is here to make more of what we need for more people. *Amen.*

God is with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us open our hearts!

**We open them to God.**

Let us give God thanks and praise!

**It is a good and joyful thing to do!**

It is indeed, always and everywhere, a good and joyful thing to give God thanks and praise!

(Mary Oliver)

One day you finally knew  
what you had to do, and began,  
though the voices around you  
kept shouting  
their bad advice--  
though the whole house

began to tremble  
and you felt the old tug  
at your ankles.  
"Mend my life!"  
each voice cried.  
But you didn't stop.  
You knew what you had to do,  
though the wind pried  
with its stiff fingers  
at the very foundations,  
though their melancholy  
was terrible.  
It was already late  
enough, and a wild night,  
and the road full of fallen  
branches and stones.  
But little by little,  
as you left their voices behind,  
the stars began to burn  
through the sheets of clouds,  
and there was a new voice  
which you slowly  
recognized as your own,  
that kept you company  
as you strode deeper and deeper  
into the world,  
determined to do  
the only thing you could do--  
determined to save  
the only life you could save.  
Bless this meal, God, and make it become truly in us, with us, and through us your life-giving,  
life-changing, life-sustaining presence and your abiding love. Amen.

**Closing Blessing** (J.R.R. Tolkien)

A journalist once asked Mother Teresa, "What has to change in the church?"

Her answer was, "You and I."

Go in peace

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If you are so moved, you might donate additional monies to the “Do Unto Others” fund, which allows Open Door to help folks who need emergencies monies for necessities. Just mark your gift DUO or “Do Unto Others” in the memo line. Bless you! If you need emergency assistance, please speak to Rev. Miller or any Board Member.

Open Door needs you! There are lots of ways to get involved. Where does your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet?

Frederick's LGBTQ Community Center is scheduling community and small-group get-togethers and activities. Find out more on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/TheFrederickCenter?>