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"Christ caring for People
through People"

January 16, 2011

God's Good News

Throughout the whole of Scripture the word about God's salvation is made clear. The Father is love. And because of that love for all people He has established a means for us to be reconciled to Him in spite of our failures and weaknesses. This week's lectionary focuses on God's plan for this wonderful work.

I have chosen verses and lines from these four readings that fit with each other to tell this story of how **God planned, promised, revealed, and fulfilled his loving purpose.**

The plan ... Isaiah 49 A Light for the Nations

Listen, far-flung islands, pay attention, faraway people: God said to me, "You're my dear servant, Israel, through whom I'll shine It's not a big enough job for my servant - just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I'm setting you up as a light for the nations so my salvation becomes global!"

The promise ... Psalm 40

Doing something for you, bringing something to you - that's not what you're after. Being religious, acting pious - that's not what you're asking for. You've opened my ears so I can listen. God's Word entered my life, became part of my very being. I've kept back nothing, God—you know that. I didn't keep the news of your ways a secret, I told it all, how dependable you are, how thorough. I didn't hold back pieces of love and truth for myself alone. I told it all . Your love and truth are all that keeps me together.

The revelation and fulfillment ... John 1

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God! Come, See for Yourself.

May God richly bless each of as you reflect on and celebrate this truly GOOD news.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin