

Reflection by Hillarie Griggs



Epiphany 2
Isaiah 62.1-5
Psalms 36.5-10
1 Corinthians 12.1-11
John 2.1-11

This Saturday, January 18th, is the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for 2025 is “Do you believe this”? This is the question Jesus asks Martha when they meet on the road before they get to Lazarus’ tomb, after he explains who he is and that those who believed in him would have eternal life. (John 11:17-27)

Personally, each of us will need to decide what we believe. When we are trying to answer this there are some things that instinctively we believe to be true because we have had experiences that confirm this to us. Some things may be things we have been taught and others are based on other’s opinions. There will have been many times, as we mature in our discipleship, that we will have had doubts and want to check things out, searching for clues and evidence. This is where the practice of reading and studying the Bible, experiencing God in creation, prayer and building a personal relationship with God helps.

Throughout the world, Christians from many different traditions are united in their core beliefs about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. These core beliefs were debated and written down many centuries ago and are still said in churches. The Nicene Creed or Apostle’s Creed can also be used as a study guide to understand what Christianity’s core beliefs are.

Our reading this week comes from John’s Gospel. John writes his gospel so “... that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31). He does this by writing about a number of signs. A sign points us to something beyond itself to something else. Here they are meant to prove that Jesus is God and help us understand more about the nature of God.

The miracle of water into wine is at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and is the first of the seven signs found in John’s Gospel. Turning water to wine points to Jesus’ divine ability to change one substance into another, including his ability to transform and bring about change in people and in their lives. The amount and quality of the wine produced shows us God’s abundant provision for everyone.

The story teaches us three things:

1. To believe that nothing is impossible with God, such as when Jesus turned the water into wine.
2. That we should follow all the commands of Jesus, as his disciples did when Mary asked the disciples to follow what he will command.
3. ‘Ask and we will receive’. Ask through prayers, have faith, follow His commands and you will receive abundant blessings, even more than you have asked for.

Things may look impossible, but with God everything is possible. Jesus will always make a way to provide for us.

“Do you believe this?”