

Prayer of Preparation: Speak lord. Your servants are listening. *Amen.*

As we enter the final week of Easter, because Easter is a season not a day, I want you to hear John of Patmos as he writes his revelation once again.

The Spirit and the bride say, *"Come."*
And let everyone who hears say, *"Come."*
And let everyone who is thirsty **come.**

I have questions...because I *always* have questions. My questions are bound in the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" I learned and taught in school. So, because you probably have the same questions, I think I *may* have some answers for you.

If you are happy...the Spirit and the bride says, Come.
If you are sad...the Spirit and the bride says, Come.
If you are depressed...the Spirit of the bride says, Come.
Oppressed....Come.
Distressed...Come.
Whole...Come.
Wealthy...Come.
Poor...come.
Sick...come.
Well...come.

The Spirit and the bride says that no matter who you are and where you've been...come.

I know you're thinking...come *where*? To church...no. To the pastor...no. To the choir...yes. To serve...yes. To preach...yes. To teach...yes. But the invitation John of Patmos is extending, the invitation I'm extending, is to come to Jesus. Come to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Come to Jesus, the Messiah. Come to Jesus, the bright and morning star. Come to Jesus the lover of our souls, Come to Jesus...Emmanuel, Come to Jesus...God with us, Come to the resurrected One, Come to Jesus...the way, the truth, and the life. Come to Jesus...water to the thirsty, bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked, healing for the sick, comfort for the lonely, a way out of no way, a rock in a weary land. The Spirit and the bride says...*Come.*

Come for salvation. Come because you heard Jesus call you. Come because you saw the Spirit working in your mother, father, sister, brother, friend, co-worker, and neighbor. Come because they told you a story about their salvation. Come because you've seen them being transformed. Come because when they came to Jesus, they started a new walk, come because you heard them talk different, come because you saw them act different, come because when you see your brother, sister, friend, and neighbor, you see the risen Christ and you want the risen Christ to be in you too.

How? How does John tell us to come? Just as we are. Just...as...we...are. We don't perfect ourselves....Jesus is the author and perfecter of our souls. We don't come because we don't sin...we come because we do and Jesus forgives us. We don't come when our mess is all straightened out...we come because Jesus is waiting with open arms to turn our mess into masterpieces and then Jesus sends us out to serve.

We come to be sent. That's the blessing of hearing the Spirit call us to come. Come and become one with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Here's how Jesus says it in John's gospel, *I made your name known to*

them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

Come and become one with God who loves you above and beyond any and all things you could ever imagine. God says, come. Jesus says, come. The Spirit says, come. Come and become one with us. One in body, one in mind, one in spirit, one in love. Come to be sent. Sent to serve. Sent to bring others to become one with the Holy Triune God. Notice, Jesus did not say to come and do the same thing, the same way, by the same people, all the time until the new heaven and new earth comes down... nope. Jesus says come and become one in love for all in all of our differences.

And that's the part we find difficult. We love to hear, come, but it gets a little iffy when we hear that we are to come and be united in love. But there's some good gospel, there's some good news in the call to come. Because when we come, God perfects our love. Beloved of God, come...and become one with the One who perfects our love and sends us out into the world to share it with the world.

Response to the Word: Holy Spirit, we have heard your word this day. We hear your call to perfect love. As we move through our week, we are blessed to be sent to spread that love throughout the world. ***Amen.***