

Subject: New From St. Francis Episcopal Church
From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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December 11, 2013

Are You The One?

Go and tell John what you see and hear . . .

Matthew 11:4

How Do You Know?

When Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, was in prison he sent word to Jesus asking if Jesus were the One to look for or should they all be looking for someone else.

That is understandable. John had invested everything in making the way for the Messiah. He was now in prison and most likely know he would be executed at some point soon. He may have felt like he was being rejected by God. Quite often people will ask how they can really know if they are hearing or recognizing the voice or presence of God. That question can be driven by the fear of being rejected by God for believing the wrong thing, behaving he wrong way, or belonging to the wrong group.

Actually Knowing

The mark of the presence of God is transforming love. No matter what you believe, how you have behave, or to what group you belong He will transform you out of His love for you. He will go into the darkest places of humanity and bring a transforming light. That light is already breaking into history now. He will bring that to completion, setting all things right, at the end of the age. You are seeing

God when you notice the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the dead are raised in every possible way imaginable.

Knowing It Personally

Jesus will also bring the power of this kingdom of hope and restoration to your life. The darkest beliefs, behavior, and belonging can be transformed by His light, power and love. Asking Him to do it will bring a profound transformation to your life. Being open to His work in other people as well as in your own life will open you up to a deeper hope that comes only from Him. What are you looking for this Advent? Is it the sound of His voice, the presence of His light and the power of His love? Take some time to sit and listen for His voice, take in the presence of His light, or show you in His way the power of His love.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, December 15, 2013 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday December 22, 2013 **Worship at 10:00am.** Students from the Aspire Dance Academy join us with a special Advent Dance.

Tuesday, December 24, 2013 **Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm**

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Precious One Family Day Home, and its owner operator, Simone Mealy, that more children would be added to this service and they would grow with great health and joy while there.

Metropolitan Richmond

We pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a love one; and for all who need to feel the love of God.

Diocese of Virginia

Congregations and clergy of Creator, Mechanicsville; Immanuel, Old Church; Santa Maria, Falls Church; Grace, Bremo Bluff; and St. John's, Columbia

Thanks to all who worked at the St. Francis table at the Manakin Market this past Saturday!

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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