

“Becoming Fully Alive”

John 17:20-26 & Revelation 22:17

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June 2, 2019

How do we become more glorious, more fully alive? By accepting God’s invitation to come. Come, enjoy God’s love. Come, receive God’s blessings. Come, be nourished. Come receive all as a gift; grace.

Revelation 22:17 NRSV “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.”

Pastor Susanne Metz wrote, “What a beautiful invitation it is when someone says, “Come.” It’s a warm word, a word filled with the joy of youthful days—come over to play, come with us on holiday, come visit grandparents, relatives, friends. It’s reminiscent of the relief a frightened or sick child feels when a parent calls, “I’m coming.” Our God uses the word so often in Scripture: “Come unto me, all you who labor.” “Come, follow me.” “Let everyone who is thirsty come.” We actually find that idea of inviting those who thirst to come and find relief many times throughout Scripture. Water is a precious commodity in desert regions—it is life itself, and the people know it. Jesus promised the woman at the well never-ending water—come, take this gift. In Revelation, Jesus promises to come soon; but we don’t have to wait for the second coming, Jesus comes to us every day, offering us gifts of grace and comfort. Our God comes to us in the bread and juice; in the movement of the Holy Spirit’s breath in our hearts; in the love shared between God and ourselves; and in the love we share with each other because we come together at God’s invitation. For what do we thirst now? What needs cry out from our spirits for ourselves and for our world? Our God says, “Come—all of you, come.”

We come to God to be forgiven, to let go of our burdens, to be set free. We come to let goodness, love, joy, and mercy permeate us. We come to be reconciled with each other. We come to be healed, made whole, and be glorified. We come to be restored, invigorated, rejuvenated. We come to perceive the glory God has created in us, the glory God sustains in us and the glory God is redeeming in us. We come to perceive glory in the cosmos. We come to perceive glory in others, in graduates, in elders, and deacons. We come to celebrate the glory we share.

Jesus prayed for us to discover the glory within us, the glory in each other, the glory throughout the cosmos. **John 17:20-26 NLT “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”**

Come, celebrate your relationship with God. God is expanding your love, deepening your joy, broadening your peace. Come, let the waters of baptism purify you. Come let the bread and juice nourish you. Come, perceive the glorious gifts in yourself and in each of us. Come, be united with all people. Come, let your glory shine. Come, be fully alive. Amen