

Epiphany 2

January 20, 2013 • John 2: 1-11

Last May, a delegation of five Canadians – Archbishop Fred Hiltz (Primate, ACC); Bishop Susan Johnson (National Bishop, ELCIC), Joint Commission Co-Chairs Bishop Michael Pryse and Dean Peter Wall, along with Sam Carriere, Director of Communications for the ACC, traveled to Jerusalem to meet with local Lutherans and Anglicans. Bishop Suheil Dawani of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land are long time friends and colleagues, and are deeply committed to working together. The Canadian delegation met with the Bishops and members of both churches (Lay and Ordained) to encourage their friendship and collaboration as their churches move towards understandings of full communion. The Waterloo Declaration (ELCIC and ACC, 2001) was presented and discussed, both local Bishops agreed to issue a pastoral letter, and the path to a deepening and refreshed working relationship between the churches and their many institutions was both launched and celebrated! It was an important time both for the visitors and for those who welcomed them..



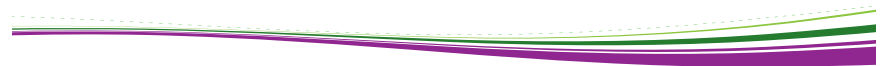
IMAGINE, FOR A MOMENT, that you are a drop of water, but not just any drop of water. You are a thinking, feeling drop of water wanting to make a difference in the world. Yet you are deep in a well in first century Palestine. You have dreams: maybe you can quench the thirst of an important scribe or make your way into a cloud that will bring an end to a famine in some parched land.

One day, you find yourself being ladled to a new destination: where will it be? Suddenly you discover that your greatest dreams

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One day, you find yourself being ladled to a new destination: where will it be? Suddenly you discover that your greatest dreams

are being realized. You are being lowered into a 20 gallon jar holding water to be used for purification! You will be flung from here on a hyssop branch to purify a person, place or thing. You take stock of where you are: a stone water jar. You have heard it told from rabbis of old that these jars are impermeable. Nothing can make its way into these jars that could make holy water unholy or the clean common.

Your fate seems sealed when you hear a muffled sound: a strange yet transforming voice slowly but certainly penetrates these impermeable walls: “Draw some out and take it to the chief steward.” You feel yourself being ladled out of this fortress and into a common cup for consumption! Not a hyssop’s branch at all; and to top things off, you realize that you are no longer holy water, but wedding wine quenching the thirst of servants. Your dreams undone, the last words you hear are “But you have kept the good wine until now.” And then it dawns on you that you are good wine; a fine wine being enjoyed. You make a difference, and so finally find joy by bringing joy into a world thirsty for celebration.

Holy God, open our eyes to see that you make us new. Help us to explore new ways of being in the world, for Christ’s sake. Amen.

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