



December 4, 2019

BEAUTIFUL MESSENGERS

On Sunday evening, I had the honor of giving the sermon at a special worship service for the ordination for Adam Isbitsky, who served at our church as a seminarian intern and as an interim minister in recent years. Judy Swahnberg and John Finney also joined the worship leadership, several members of our choir joined the choir that night, and more were in attendance to celebrate Adam's call to ordained ministry. But Adam also wanted to be sure that this service would celebrate how *all* people are called to ministry, each in different ways.

The service centered on a passage from the prophet Isaiah: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation" (Isaiah 52:1-2).

As the season of Advent begins, those words give us a place to begin in our preparation and spiritual renewal. Advent looks forward to the birth of Jesus, who makes God's love present and real in the world. We get to be messengers, as Isaiah put it, spreading the announcement of peace, good news, and salvation that God gives to the world.

How beautiful are the feet of the messenger:

beautiful like the sight of a familiar face who has come to give comfort in the midst of your struggle and grief;

beautiful like people walking together in solidarity and with generosity for those who are in need, and those who have been abused and excluded;

beautiful like the hymns that we sing, and the bread that we share, and the relationships that are formed in a congregation that offers safe haven, and courageous resistance to evil, and the bold hope of God's vision for the world.

We are all called to be messengers in the words we say – and in the things we do – to make the message of God present and real in the world.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister