

## **WE CAN LIVE A NEW WAY!**

Scripture: Habakkuk 3:2-6

December 12, 2020

**Message: O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy.**

### **Habakkuk 3:2 (NRSV)**

The prophet Habakkuk remembers God's reputation as a God who is ready to show compassion but hates injustice and will act against it, a God of light and mercy, of judgment and destruction.

Many years ago, an African American United Methodist District Superintendent showed up at the home of a poor white girl, because he had heard about the promise in her life. That poor white girl was me. I will forever be grateful for The Rev. Dr. Ramsey Bridges who went before me to West Virginia Wesleyan College and helped pave my way. As my family had no means of transportation, he made trips to Buckhannon with me "in tow," to meet with college personnel.

We live in a world today where the promise in the lives of many persons of color and marginalized folk is routinely squashed. We live in a world where both individuals and institutions are more likely to see persons whose color isn't white as persons who have little potential and promise. Habakkuk reminds us that God is watching and looking for acts of justice on the earth.

God is always ready to forgive us and offer us new life, but God wants us to walk in HIS ways, HIS paths. God's eternal paths are filled with Love and Justice for ALL PEOPLE.

Rev. Bridges used his position and caring to help provide opportunity for a marginalized person who had nothing to offer in return, and who surely would have gotten lost in the shuffle of the accepted values of the day.

We are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus who came to forgive us of our sins and to make it possible for us to live in a whole new way. In the next few weeks most of us will sing the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem." In that carol there is a prayer. I invite you to pray that prayer with me.

**Prayer: O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today. Amen.**

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