



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Third Sunday of Easter, April 18, 2021

The Community of the Revealed

by Mr. Daniel H. Wilcox

1 John 3:1-7

3:1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

3:3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

3:4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

3:5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

3:6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

In the recent Annual Ministries in Christian Education meeting, the African Methodist Episcopal Church Christian Education Department featured the theme, "*Becoming*." It is based on the aforementioned scripture with an emphasis on the revealed Christ and self. This accentuates a transformation of the human self into a pure state of existence. It acknowledges that our present state is not the final one. "*Becoming*" challenges believers to evolve, transform, and transition.

The writer of 1 John comforts us as believers with the promise that through faith Jesus Christ, we are deemed as children of God by Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. This process of becoming involves a movement from impurity to purity or imperfection to perfection. The church calls this evolution, sanctification. We are sanctified by the advocacy of Christ and the indwelling purification of the Holy Ghost. We become revealed as Jesus Christ revealed Himself after the resurrection. We walk in the way of our Lord, Christ Jesus to the mark of holiness.

Thomas A. Dorsey, the prolific gospel writer affirms that “it is a highway to heaven, none can walk up there but the pure in heart.” Our purity or righteousness comes solely from God. Our worship, witness, and work must demonstrate a hope of lived holiness. Let’s live so that our goodness may reveal our Godliness and become the revealed children of God.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time-instance when you have experienced spiritual purity or holiness? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY:

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray you, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in unity with the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. AMEN

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT: During the Easter season, envision your revealed self in the Lord, contemplate the pathway to this state, and commence a sanctified life. Journal your experience and reflect on your journey through Eastertide and toward Pentecost. In this Eastertide Season, do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song: It's A Highway to Heaven

Refrain:

*It's a highway to heaven.
None can walk up there,
But the pure in heart.
It's a highway to heaven.
I am walking up the King's highway.*

If you're not walking,
Start while I'm talking.
Walking up the King's highway.
There's joy in knowing
With Him I'm going.
Walking up the King's highway.

My way gets brighter;
My load gets lighter.
Walking up the King's highway.
And you'll be confessing,
There is a blessing.
Walking up the King's highway.

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.