



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

January 20, 2008

## Epiphany 2

In 1492 Christopher Columbus landed on the soil of America and he is credited with discovering America.

He may have landed on the edge of America but I do not believe he really discovered America. The reason I do not believe this is because he never to my knowledge stood on the sandy beaches of the Gulf shore.

He never dipped his feet in the Mississippi River.

He never swam in the cool waters of the great lakes. Never felt the heat of the desert southwest. Never played in the snow of Colorado.

And never walked the fields of the Kentucky bluegrass.

You know the same is true for many people where Jesus of Nazareth is concerned. They know the name of Jesus. They know that a man by that name lived on earth, born in manger died on a cross. But such limited knowledge only approaches the edge of this man Jesus.

And many of us simply approach the edge.

Many of us have never really felt his power, tasted his goodness or known his wisdom.

We stand at the edge. Keeping our distance from a person whom we know can and will change our life. For Ever.

We stand at the edge and ask, "Who are you, where are you staying, where can I find you?" Every time Jesus says come and see. But we do not come and see. We stand still-often out of fear.

What scares us the most is not what we will find out about Jesus but what he already knows about us. All those dark recesses of our life. Our pasts. The stuff we have locked away in secure secret compartments. The stuff we feel guilty about, embarrassed about, ashamed of.

The stuff we are scared of, because if Jesus were to even mention them we may be a lesser person to him. He may not love us as much or he, may not love us any more.

So we stay on the edge. With our masks and our images. Our appearance that we have it all together and yet inside there is turmoil.

And so we stand in fear of ourselves.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

January 20, 2008

Jesus stands with arms outstretched beckoning, "Come and see. Do not just see but come and know me, know what I came for and who I came for.

I did not come for the false shiny faces. I did not come to comment on your goodness, I came for that which you feel guilty for, so I can take it away and you can live."

"I came for that which you are embarrassed about so I can take away your shame and you can live."

"I came for that which you feel ashamed of so that you can lift up your head again and you can live."

"I came for the dark places of your life to bring them to my light and I will forgive you."

Yet we stand at the edge, not so much scared of Jesus but scared of our selves.

And Jesus says, "Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

"Your sins are forgiven. Take up your pallet and walk."

"Your faith has made you well."

"This is my blood of the new covenant that is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Jesus, who John says is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus, with arms outstretched, says "Come to me, I know all your secrets and I am here to forgive." In his forgiveness he does not keep a record, he does not store it away to be discussed at a later date, there is no remission. He wipes the slate clean; he takes it away and absolves it absolutely.

If we stand at the edge we see Jesus from a distance.

That is not where Jesus wants us to stand. He wants us to discover him, to open all the places of our heart and lives that he may give life to them.

To stand at the edge of Jesus is to miss the point, to miss the power, to miss the love, to miss the freedom, to miss the joy, to miss the life.

Jesus asks each one of us, "What are you looking for?" He then tells us to come and see. Come and see. Come and discover. Come.

Amen

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)