

**SLD01.15.17 MLK Sunday**  
**Emory Presbyterian Church**  
**John 1:29-39a**  
**Jill Oglesby Evans**

**“Come and See”**

**John 1: 29-39a**

The next day he (that is John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.”

Among my many favorite things about this church are these couple weeks in January when we first recommit our lives to Jesus Christ and his work in the world, as we did last week through our Wesleyan Covenant Service. And then proceed to ACT on that commitment by mobilizing ourselves around the City of Decatur’s Martin Luther King Service weekend.

What better way to put our hands where our hearts are.

Remember last week’s covenant service where we say to God, “Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt; put me to doing; put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me

be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.”

God's gotta love hearing us say that. But dollars to doughnuts, God loves even more when we DO it.

You've heard it often, I'm sure, that the Martin Luther King 'holiday' is “a day on, not a day off.” Or, in our case, a whole three day weekend 'on,' with its aim to transform Dr. King's life and teachings into community service that helps empower and strengthen local communities.<sup>1</sup> Well, never mind the houses we work on, our efforts around MLK weekend sure empower and strengthen *this* local community.

We owe, I feel, such a debt of gratitude to the City of Decatur for organizing such meaningful work, to Bill and Lilabet, for organizing us here at Emory Church, to Molly and Ken, for organizing the folks N. Decatur Methodist Church (to Betsy, for raising two such amazing daughters), and to movement of the Holy Spirit in this church that animates folks to step up and bake and pray and clean and rake and dig and saw and hammer and paint and whatever else is needed to make the two senior homes assigned to us safe and pretty and comfortable. And, of course, we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. King, as well, for his preaching and teaching and personal sacrifice on behalf of his vision for the beloved community.

As we do each year, we'll hear now from Dr. King, himself; this time an excerpt from his speech to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference here in Atlanta, on August 16, 1967, with a particularly timely title: “Where Do We Go From Here?”

*A segment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech  
to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
in Atlanta, Ga. on August 16, 1967*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.serve.gov/site-page/mlkday>

Jesus asked his followers, "What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come to 616 and 620 South McDonough St., and see."

To the glory of God. Amen.