



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast  
January 24, 2021  
3rd Sunday After Epiphany  
(The Epiphany, January 6, 2021)

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Revised Common Lectionary Scripture Readings for this Sunday

- [Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#): God calls Jonah again to travel to Nineveh to preach repentance.
- [Psalm 62:6-14](#): A song of trust in God ... "For God alone my soul in silence waits."
- [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#): Paul declares "the present form of this world is passing away."
- [Mark 1:14-20](#): Jesus tells Simon and Andrew to "follow me and I will make you fish for people."

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Celebration of the Conversion of Saul - January 25

**Who was Saul (St. Paul)?** Paul's letters, the earliest Christian writings, reveal him to be the earliest interpreter of Christ's teachings and the early founder of Christian theology. Paul may have written 13 of the books in the New Testament, although scholars believe he actually wrote eight. Paul, or Saul before his conversion to Christianity, was a Roman citizen born in Tarsus, in present day Turkey. He was raised as an Orthodox Jew. After the death of Jesus Saul encountered the Christian movement and led organized persecution of Christians, calling them a "dangerous heresy." He was present at the martyrdom of Stephen. Until one day on the road to Damascus all that changed. Acts 9:1-19 tells the famous story of Saul – Paul's – encounter with the risen Jesus, his blindness, healing, and commitment to Christ.

**What is a "Damascus Moment?"** Some of us have had "Damascus moments" like Saul. We can tell vivid stories about those extraordinary experiences which forever altered our lives, the way we look at the world, our relationships with others, and how we come to understand God. But, some of us have not had such a dramatic experience.

**Is it bad that I haven't had a Damascus Moment?** No, for many of us it is often the numerous little things we encounter every day that gently nudge us toward God. Granted, it takes some discipline to recognize those moments and ignore the distractions around us. Being receptive to God in the world we can see the little miracles and the unexpected blessings in our day-to-day lives. And, of course, quiet, solitary prayer often helps to open our eyes when we have trouble seeing God at work in the world.

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**Special prayers this week:** for the soul of Cora and comfort for her family; for Charley's good health and continued healing; pray for Mary's recovery; prayers for good health for Emerson and his family. We pray for those suffering in the pandemic. Lastly, pray for peace and calm in our country.