

As we hear again the story of the Wedding of Cana, we are reminded that this is Jesus's first miracle in the Gospel of John—not healing, or stilling the sea; rather it is the gift of wine at a wedding. John does not call this a miracle, but a “sign” that points to who Jesus is and reveals his glory. This is the first relationship that is revealed as a relationship with God's people; Jesus is asked by his mother to help a couple and their family at a wedding celebration that went on for several days; it is a reminder of God's own desire for us to know joy and abundance.



The servants are the ones who filled the jars with water, the wine steward does not know where the wine came from, and the marriage couple has no idea what is going on. It is good to note that it is Jesus' mother who asks Jesus to do something, even expects him to do something—even though Jesus turns to her and say it is not yet his time. We only know that his mother, who has no name in this Gospel, notices the difficulty and even recognizes the potential shame of the family in their inadequate preparation. What does she expect? We do not know.

Father Serges Saget, Altar of Keur Moussa Abbey

In the Gospel of John, relationship in paramount: this first sign begins in relationship—in relationship to the community, in relationship to the bride and the groom, in relationship to the families, in relationship to Jesus and his mother, and even in Jesus's relationship to the servants who respond and do what he asks. God enters into the every day, which is an extraordinary event in the life of their community. How do we think of this now? What do we think of this extravagant and abundant sign of God's presence as the first miracle in the Gospel of John? What more would we ask of Jesus?

In Corinthians we are reminded how different we are as we receive the gifts of God in our hearts and in our flesh. How much more we need to remember that God desires celebration and praise as we gather together. Mercy and justice leads us into deeper relationships of joy and abundance. May we remember all our gifts, especially the gifts of Martin Luther King Jr., as we reflect on our own gifts and offer them to God, together, as a community of faith.

“God, help us to serve you and one another.”

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

*Pastor Susan*