**FAITH365 SUMMER SESSION July 2019**

**Stories Told In Color: A Call from Beauty**

**WELCOME:**

Call to be in the moment, to be still, to leave the cares of life to the side, if for just a moment.

Take a moment and go around the table and introduce yourself. In your introduction, please tell the group your favorite color and why; or what is the color that describes you mood today and why.

**SONG OF MEDITATION True Colors**

You with the sad eyes
Don't be discouraged, oh I realize
It's hard to take courage
In a world full of people
You can lose sight of it all
The darkness inside you
Can make you feel so small

I see your true colors
Shining through
I see your true colors
And that's why I love you
So don't be afraid to let them show
Your true colors
True colors are beautiful like a rainbow

Show me a smile then
Don't be unhappy
Can't remember when
I last saw you laughing
This world makes you crazy
And you've taken all you can bear
Just call me up
'Cause I will always be there

And I see your true colors
Shining through
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And that's why I love you
So don't be afraid
To let them show your true colors
True colors are beautiful

Like a rainbow

**FOCUS:** The call of Jesus to each of us is life-long. It comes in times of challenge and transition. It comes in ordinary moments of life. And it comes in places we least expect. Art and beauty are experiences through which God calls us. The art and beauty of cathedrals served as tools to teach people about faith. Even more, they helped people move away from the world for just a little while to hear God’s call and to answer it.

The artist Edvard Munch once said, *No longer shall I paint interiors with men reading and women knitting. I will paint living people who breathe, and feel and suffer and love.* Many of the great artists have attempted to capture the living Jesus who breathes, feels, suffers and loves. At this session we want to reflect together on how the Lord calls us to imitate the image of Jesus who asks us to breath, feel, suffer and love as he did.

**Reminders:**

**PARTICIPATE** Everyone has some wisdom; while no one is forced to share, sometimes the comment you think is not profound actually is the one that many remember.

**BE PRESENT** Make every effort to leave problems and things you need to do at the door; please turn off or silence cell phones.

**BE COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE** Don’t be afraid if there is silence or feel the need to say something –unless you want to—just because no one is speaking.

**BE GENTLE ABOUT DIFFERENCES** We may see things differently, but we are on the path together.

**OUR AGENDA IS PEACE NOT POLITICS** Be cautious about injecting political agenda that is not central to the conversation. No bashing of individuals, but respect always for those with whom we do not agree.

We listen now to this reading:

From the Gospel of Mark 10: 17-21

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.’” He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

**WHAT DID I HEAR?**

**WHAT DO I THINK IT MEANS?**

**WHAT CHALLENGE DOES IT OFFER?**

**FILM VIMEO: JIM CAREY: I NEEDED COLOR.** Jim Carrey is a Canadian-American actor, comedian and screenwriter who has been in the public eye for over 30 years. Since childhood, he has been drawing and painting. It is only in recent years that Carey has shared his art publically. He sees art as an extension of his work as an actor, as it allows him to express his inner life in color. This video is an interview from about two years ago in which he discusses his vocation as an artist.

**FOR DISCUSSION AFTER THE VIDEO:**

*What words or images stood out for you from the clip?*

*Carey begins the interview saying, “your vocation chooses you.” Has that been your experience in life? Do you think your vocation as a follower of Christ chose you?*

*Carey said, “ I needed color” on a bleak day in winter. He goes on to say that you can tell what he loves by the color of his paintings; and his inner life by the darkness of his paintings. What do you need to help you on the bleak days of life? How can people tell what you love? How can you know what is happening in your inner, spiritual life?*

*Carey reflects that the paintings, often a year after he created them, tell him something he needed to know about himself. Does faith do that for you and how? Do prayer and/or scripture help you discover something you need to know about yourself?*

*As an artist, Carey says isolation is welcome as an artist. How essential is quiet and isolation to a life of faith? What is your experience of quiet and being alone? Besides the challenges of busy lives, what makes it hard to pull away from life for a time of quiet?*

*What spiritual practices draw you away from distractions and more closely to the Lord?*

*Do you have an image of Jesus in your home; is there an image of Jesus you associate with a certain period of your life, e.g. childhood? Carey speaks of an image of Jesus that stares at you and you are healed from the painting. Have you experienced art as having the power to free you? Is there a image of Jesus you wish an artist would create; is there an image of Jesus that you do not understand?*

*Have you experienced a change in the image you have of Jesus, depending on circumstance or stage of life?*

*“I don’t know what the painting teaches me; I know that it just frees me.”*

*From what does your faith free you?*

**PRAYER AND RESPONSE**

Each time we meet, we will bring to our prayer the challenges we face and the blessings for which we are grateful. So we will spend a few moments now in quiet. And as you feel moved, share either a challenge or blessing you would like to bring to prayer (or both.)

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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