



Commitment
January 16, 2022
Isaiah 43:1-7

Connect

- Some people say, “*I struggle with commitment.*” What are they saying about themselves? How do you struggle with commitment?
- This Sunday, we recognize the baptism of Jesus and consider our own baptisms. If you’ve been baptized, describe the details of that moment – *who, what, when, where* and *why*? Why was/is baptism important to you?

Engage

- Read *Isaiah 43:1-7* and *Matthew 3:13-17*. These passages are often paired on Baptism Sunday. Why do you think that is so?
- People often asked why Jesus had to be baptized. Do you think he “*had to*?” Why do you think baptism was important to Jesus?
- Jesus surely made some pre-decisions about his ministry. It was going to be a rough go in many ways and he could have easily been deterred. What do you think Jesus decided was priority one before he was baptized and started his ministry? Why do you think so?
- On this Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr weekend, we remember his commitment to the call for equality and justice for all. His commitment was clear. We also know that no movement is a movement of one. Millions of others committed some part, no matter how seemingly small, to see the change for which justice was calling. What movement(s) do you see today in this same spirit? What commitment are you making no matter how seemingly small?
- What commitments are strong with you these days? How do you prioritize those commitments?

Next Steps

- Take a moment to make a list of the five things/events/tasks that you are most committed to. Study your list for several days, praying for discernment over each one. What does your list say about your priorities? Which commitments need to be strengthened? Which ones need to shift out? What commitments need to shift into your top five? After you are settled on your top five for this season in your life, commit to strengthen each one if even in one small way in the coming week. Each step forward leads you closer to the life you feel called to live.

Pray

- “*What is strong with me, O God? What do you see? Help me see more clearly what you long for my life and help my commitment to that path be as solid as stone. Amen.*”