

Yr. C, Epiphany 2
January 20, 2019
Preached by the Rev. Furman Buchanan
Eglise Bon Sauveur, Cange Haiti
1565 Words

Lessons: **Isaiah 62:1-5**
****Psalm 36:5-10****
****1 Corinthians 12:1-11****
****John 2:1-11****

Dear people of *Eglise bon Sauveur*, I am so happy to finally meet you. I have heard so many good things about you for many years. You are famous in our diocese of upper South Carolina! In my diocese people use these words to describe you: beautiful, strong, courageous, joyful, thankful, and amazing.

And today, we get to worship together. We get to worship together as we celebrate the love of our *bon sauveur*! I am very honored to be invited to preach today. Thank you Fr. Kesner.

Someone told me that you enjoy, good, meaty, full sermons. In my congregation some people want short sermons. So, I usually keep my sermons brief. I hope I have more than a small snack for you! If this sermon seems like just a snack, Fr. Kesner can serve the main meal!

In today's Gospel, we see what our *bon sauveur* is really like! Like us, he gets invited to weddings. Like us, he goes to weddings with friends and family. Like us, his mother tries to tell him what to do!

Like us, Jesus can recognize a problem. He can see a need. And he is willing to do something about it. Jesus listens and responds when people have a need.

I believe that Jesus not only solved problems in the past. I believe Jesus also set an example for us in the present. Our *bon sauveur* has shown us how to make life better. Our *bon sauveur* has shown us the way to celebrate God's love together.

When Jesus said to his mother that his hour had not yet come, I suspect he was wrestling with the idea that he did not come as Messiah just to 'save the day' from common mishaps like running out of wine. Yet, for some reason, Jesus changed his mind. As a result, he not only 'saved the day.' He *made* the day!

The Gospel according to St. John says Jesus took 6 jars, each holding 30 gallons, and filled them to the brim! 180 gallons is the same as 681 litres of water, changed into wine!

When my daughters were little, I would say to them: "I love you *too much!*" And when they learned to speak, I would ask them, "How much does daddy love you?" And they would say, "*Too much!*" Dear friends, 681 liters is too much! Jesus, our *bon sauveur*, loves us too much! He not only saves the day. He *makes* the day!

Our *bon sauveur* has shown us how to make life better. Our *bon sauveur* has shown us how to celebrate the love of God together. We may not be able to change water into wine, but we can do so many other things to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together.

I want to tell you about a special wall in my Church building. My parish is St. Peter's in Greenville, South Carolina. There is a wall in my parish building painted bright, beautiful colors. There is a picture hanging on the wall of a man wearing a hat. He is no longer living, but many years ago someone took that picture of him. He was standing here in Cange, wearing a hat because of the bright sun. His name was John. The story about John is painted on our bright, colorful wall. He and a friend came to Cange to figure out how to bring water here.

Without electricity, they figured a way for the water to pump itself up here! It sounds like a miracle to me. It sounds *almost* as hard as changing water into wine. I would not know how to do it, but John and his friend went to school and learned how to do hard things. John and his friend also followed the example of our *bon sauveur*. They worked to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together!

They did not change water into wine, but they changed life for the better...better health, better access to water. Following the example of Jesus, they did not just save the day. They *made* the day! For mothers and daughters, for fathers and sons, the water finally came uphill to Cange. For all who thirsted, the water finally came uphill to Cange.

And now we have these beautiful students from Clemson University. They are learning to do hard things. They are helping to make a good water system *even better*. Like Jesus, they can recognize a problem. Like Jesus, they can see a need. Like Jesus, they are willing to do something about it.

These students may not be able to change water into wine, but they can do so many other things to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together. They are following the example of our *bon sauveur*!

Last Tuesday was the birthday of a very special preacher. His name is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Like Jesus at the wedding in Cana, Dr. King recognized a problem. Like Jesus at the wedding in Cana, Dr. King saw a need. Like Jesus, he was willing to do something about it.

Dr. King did not know how to turn water into wine, but he knew how to turn darkness into light. Dr. King knew how to turn lies into truth. Dr. King knew how to turn injustice into civil rights. Dr. King knew how to turn hate into love.

Following the example of our *bon sauveur*, Dr. King did many hard things. Following the example of our *bon sauveur*, Dr. King worked to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together.

He loved our nation *too much*...to let things stay broken. He loved all people *too much*...to tolerate injustice and hatred. Following the example of Jesus, Dr. King gave *his* life to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together.

We are here this week on a medical mission. I have learned a new thing! I have learned how to check blood pressure. Some people on our team are able to do *hard things*. The priest gets to do a simple thing!

This is what else I have learned. You are beautiful, strong, courageous, joyful, amazing people. And...you have to take care of your bodies, just like you take care of your souls. Our *bodies* are the Temple of God's Holy Spirit! So, we must take care of our bodies just as we take care of our Church buildings.

Another thing I learned is that too much salt is not good for us. Salty food tastes good in our mouths, but it is *not good* for our hearts. And this is hard because we do need *some* salt. We do *not need* too much salt! Too much love is a good thing. Too much salt is a bad thing!

And so, *I have a dream* about one of your children finding a new spice to use. I imagine one of your youth finding a flavor you can grow with herbs. Maybe it is a flavor you can mix together from different plants. What if some special person in here could change the way we cook—not just in Cange, but maybe in America and in Europe?

What if a farmer and a cook and a scientist worked together to make something better than salt? What if Haiti became famous for growing, blending, and making the best *and* healthiest seasoning in the whole world?

Your farmers and cooks and scientists and youth may not be able to change water into wine, but they can learn how to do a hard thing...to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together. They may be able to make good food *even better*. They may be able to make our bodies' health *even better*.

Like Jesus, they can recognize a problem. Like Jesus, they can see a need. Like Jesus, they can do something about it.

If you feel inspired to follow the example of our *bon sauveur*, you may end up not just saving the day (for people who have strokes). You may end up making the day for families to live a full life together for many years.

Jesus never asked *any of us* to change water into wine. Not once did Jesus ask anyone else to turn 681 liters of water into wine!

But Jesus does invite us—and even *challenge us*—to do hard things. Sometimes we have to do things that seem too hard for us. When you feel like something is just too hard to do or too hard to change, remember this: Like Jesus, every one of us is able to recognize a problem. Like Jesus, every one of us is able to see a need. Like Jesus, every one of us is able to do *something* about it.

We cannot change water into wine, but we can do so many other things to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together.

We can follow the example of our *bon sauveur*! We can experience the love of God *too much*! We can love one another *too much*! We can be the beautiful, strong, courageous, joyful, amazing people whom God created us to be.

All we have to do is follow the example of Jesus. As hard as it can be, all we have to do is live like our *bon sauveur*...committing ourselves to make life better...and to celebrate God's love together.

Amen.