



**JAMES ISLAND**  
Presbyterian Church

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One of the greatest privileges of being a pastor is that I get to participate in the life of so many people. This encompasses many journeys including joys, contemplations, and tragedies. No matter what the occasion, every time I am invited into the circle, I am humbled and honored.

A few years ago, I was privileged to participate in a funeral service for a kind and gentle man. He was a successful lawyer and judge in a small community. His family, friends, and colleagues told various stories about his life but the running, unplanned theme throughout the service was how this man would gently place his hand on your shoulder and say, "Can you come here, I need to show you something." This was his way of teaching his children, grandchildren, colleagues, and many others. He would invite them to look at a situation, such as a dirty room or unprepared brief, gather their opinion, and politely ask them to make a few changes.

The 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Jeremiah begins with God inviting Jeremiah to the potter's house. God says to Jeremiah, "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words" (Jeremiah 18:1). In essence, God is placing his hand on Jeremiah's shoulder and saying, "I need to show you something."

I wonder if this is what God is doing to us each week on Sunday mornings. What if God is placing God's hand on our shoulder and saying to us, "Come here, I would like to show you something." What if God is inviting us to see (experience) the Kingdom of God through everything we do at worship including the scripture we read, the words we say, the prayers we pray, the music we sing, as well as the liturgy.

The church word, liturgy, is a word we use to describe what goes into our worship service. The prayers, the songs, and the readings. The word liturgy comes from two Latin words, one meaning people and the other work. Worship is the work of God's people.

What if during this service, God is spending time molding and shaping us like a potter does a clay jar to prepare us to see God's work wherever we go. It excites me to know that no matter how old we get, God is not through molding and shaping us...not only that, but God is not through molding and shaping the world.

Perhaps that is the biggest privilege in life. God is inviting you, me, and all of James Island Presbyterian Church together each week to "show us something." I do not know about you, but I am thankful for this invitation and honored that I get to be on this life journey with each of you.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday and every other Sunday as God taps us on the shoulder and continues to mold us.

Yours in Christ,

Barrett

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