

Reflection for February 8, 2026 - A Hidden Mystery?

Inspired by 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, 13-16

“We speak **God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery**, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and **which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**” Valerie shared those words this morning from our Epistle reading.

What is God’s wisdom? Paul suggests it is hidden mystery. Hidden such that none of the rulers of the age understood it.

How does one describe it, how to we get our fingers on it? How do we begin to understand the vastness of God’s reach, the remarkable Holy Presence that is with us today, here in this place and at the same time appreciate it has been present since the dawn of Creation? How might we experience the joy and contentment that healing can bring from a knowing of Holy Mystery?

What is this hidden mystery that if understood would have saved Jesus from an untimely and horrific death? What kind of wisdom was lacking from those that called out for his crucifixion? What did the Pharisees misunderstand as they gave Jesus up as a scapegoat for their own benefit? What didn’t Judas understand and what did Pilot fail to perceive?

Let’s do a quick back-cast to Paul’s personal experience. Before his conversion he was a Pharisee, an individual who intensely persecuted the church of a new age and tried to destroy it. He was an extremist in his determination to further Judaism in the tradition of his fathers. Paul, like many others of the elite classes, perceived Jesus as a threat. Even after Jesus’ death Paul continued to persecute the early Christians.

Acts 9:1-2 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

The miracle of Paul’s transformation occurs on this trip, the infamous Road to Damascus journey.

³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

As we know the narrative, Saul becomes the Apostle Paul and later becomes the founder of many house churches throughout the Aegean. Paul experiences a vision setting him on a completely different path. It is a complete reversal of his being in the world; a 360-degree turn.

It seems to me that Paul suddenly understood God’s wisdom, that hidden mystery we speak of, which, if he had understood it earlier, may have prompted him to try and prevent Jesus’ death rather than condone it.

That hidden mystery God birthed in Adam and Eve, made available to Abraham and Moses, was carried in Mary and Elizabeth in their pregnancies. It **was** the man Jesus. It has existed over the aeons and prevails in many souls this day.

It can be elusive, but it is also often in plain view.

It’s elusive when fear breaks into the hearts of immigrants who must run to hide from authorities bent on rounding them up in mass export campaigns. It is elusive when women are

dragged from their cars by masked government agents. It is elusive when even children are separated and detained from their parents by immigration authorities.

It is elusive when presidential decrees send special forces into foreign lands on kidnapping campaigns in the pretence of world security, while all the time intent on engaging in manipulation of local economic stability for their own gain.

It is elusive when families are blackmailed and their security threatened as they cower in hopeful safety indoors, while bullets shatter windows. This mystery stays well hidden when essential food and medical supplies are prevented from reaching the needy, and through the continued military assault on housing and infrastructure, when citizens are already cold, hungry and desperate.

The “Hidden Mystery” is back in our presence when children are at play on swing sets and paddle through puddles. It is before us when they rest on grandparent’s knees sharing an ice cream. The “Hidden Mystery” comes into focus when our young people can walk safely home from school without parental escort.

It jumps into focus when warming shelters offer respite from a cold winter’s night, when safe injection sites provide a means for those suffering from addiction, to obtain untainted drugs and prevent deadly overdoses.

It is known as random acts of kindness. It is recognized as respectful care of the elderly, visitations to the lonely, reasonable pay for a day’s work, equal opportunity for those of all skin colour, ethnic background, language or culture. It is known in the welcome of the stranger, atheist, Jew, Gentile.

We see it in the displayed colours of LGBTQ2+ flag and Pride Day celebrations. We witness it when we light our Reconciliation Candle each Sunday Morning. We experience it during our Pastoral Prayers.

Of what do we speak?

We speak of the truth. The truth is the all too often hidden mystery.

The truth is, that however one wants to frame “Holy Love;” God, Creator, Holy Spirit, Holy One, Holy Three, Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, that presence is ubiquitous in nature, it knows no bounds and is limitless. The truth tells us that the love in Jesus of Nazareth could never be put to death. It was pointless to try. The actions of those that tried only served to affirm the permanency of humility, kindness, gentleness and hope in the world.

Some would like us to keep the truth hidden. Paul was awakened from ignorance and transformed, “I can’t do it he realized. I can’t keep the truth from being told. Jesus is God’s love in the world.” That was true then and it is true now. It is part of every fabric of our being whether we choose to believe it or not.

The mystery is no longer. It is found in the truth. Holy Love can stay hidden for only so long. Invite it into your life. Celebrate it, bathe in it, live it. Be transformed like Paul.

Thanks for listening this morning. Amen