



# A Better Story

## FCCNH 2022 ELDER MEDITATIONS

11 DECEMBER 2022

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### **AN EXPANSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF "A BETTER WAY"**

One of the many joys I have through my membership at FCCNH is the variety of understandings of our faith that we not only allow but actually encourage among us. We, as Disciples, believe in an early saying of our church: "In essentials unity; in non-essentials liberty; in all things, charity."

For a long time, Disciples in the United States, where our denomination was founded, lived in Christian communities without much, if any contact, with folks from other religious traditions. Marcus Borg writes about how that has shaped our understandings of our faith, including our interpretations of the Bible. Notably, he expands our understanding of how we can see Jesus comfortably beyond Christian exclusivism:

There is a way of understanding the claim of John 14:6 that does not involve Christian exclusivism. The key is the realization that John is the incarnational Gospel; in it, Jesus incarnates, embodies, enfleshes what can be seen of God in a human life. To say, "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life," is to say, "What we see in Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life." It is not about knowing the word "Jesus" and believing in what is said about Him that is "the way." Rather, the way is what we see in His life; we see a life of loving God and loving others, a life of challenging the powers that oppress this world, a life radically centered in the God to whom He bore witness.\*

May this Advent season allow us to see God in a more expansive way, a Way that Jesus demonstrated for us and asks us to follow as well. May the Spirit continue to guide us in A Better Way.

\*[https://day1.org/articles/5d9b820ef71918cdf2002d99/dr\\_marcus\\_j\\_borg\\_the\\_only\\_way](https://day1.org/articles/5d9b820ef71918cdf2002d99/dr_marcus_j_borg_the_only_way)