

Sunday Wonderings - November 10, 2024

*"This is unknown territory,
But not without direction" ¹*

The above is a line in a poem from Carrey Newcomer. She's been reflecting on the great divide and uncertainty and concern in the minds of our neighbours in the States. This was from this morning's offerings. For those who want to read the full poem, you can find it at <https://carriewcomer.substack.com/p/recalculating-recalibrating>.

This morning, we gathered as a church online. Rev. Jordan Cantwell led us in a short prayer service inviting us to reflect on the lectionary reading from 1 Kings 17:8-16, the story of the widow who feeds the prophet Elijah with her last bit of flour. Elijah is a prophet with waning hope on an uncertain journey. He follows the voice of God he hears. Jordan read past the lectionary boundary, extending the reading into the next few lines – 1 Kings 17:17 – 24. She reflected on how this text reminds her of the steadfast presence of God with us even in the presence of such great calamity that we cannot find our direction out of it. In the course of a few short chapters, God keeps showing up, again and again, offering words and direction back to life. A reminder that in unknown territory, we know our way because God is there.

Our gospel text is the story of the widow who gives two small coins. The text does not explore why she gives but paired with this reading from 1 King, I reflect on the ways we are invited to offer hospitality to one another and how sometimes we think we do not have much to offer. And yet, what a powerful presence we offer when we simply show up, trusting that we are not alone and that what we have to offer God can make use of.

The gift of our hospitality begins with the gift of Love that God has already promised to us. Sometimes, willing to simply walk alongside another with perhaps nothing more than our caring silence, is the gift we can give. It might feel like it is not enough. We want to offer words and assurance to ease the suffering of others. Yet, even when we don't feel we have the words or the wisdom we wish we did, we offer what we have. We offer the hospitality of our heart. In this, is the offering of God's love. We trust in God's presence to bring life and direction in the gift of our loving presence. In God's love, we are reminded that we are already enough.

In our gathering this morning we shared the words of our Creed. A reminder of who we are and how we are. I offer it now.

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,

¹ Carrie Newcomer, Recalculating, Recalibrating, A Gathering of Spirits @ <https://carriewcomer.substack.com/p/recalculating-recalibrating> .

to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

We may feel like we are in "unknown territory" these days, but we are "not without direction"²

Thanks be to God.

Blessings on your Sunday Sabbath.

Rev. Linda

² Ibid