

## Sunday Wonderings – November 21<sup>st</sup>



Last Sunday a few of us gathered with Rev. Kimberly Row from Edson. A few of you may know her. It was not a large gathering, but that is not the point of worship.

Worship is about taking time to pause to be present with God, bringing our whole selves into God's time, it's like a little time out from the worries and concerns that consume us these days. We gather to remember the stories that sustain us, to know God's presence with us and between us.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

Rev. Kimberly invited us to let go of our busy thinking minds and enter the text like little children. Her message was simple – even in uncertain times we are called to be the light. Perhaps we need the mind of the child, the imagination of the child, to embrace Jesus' teachings about God's unconditional love that is given to each of us, this 'light of love' that shines in all of us.

Rev. Kimberly shared this delightful video with us. <https://youtu.be/cKkblZtqhyQ?feature=shared> I invite you to watch it now and hope you enjoy it as we did. After watching the video, she invited us to share our response to the video, what we noticed, and what we liked, what we did not like. Rev. Kimberly noted how watching the video, this time, she noticed how the light cast light beyond itself and into the neighbourhood. Others shared how the video inspired them to follow Jesus's teaching. I was struck by the joyful walking of the light and that I noticed at the beginning the light walked alone and by the end of the video the light was joined by others. Perhaps inspired by the one light.

These are challenging days for us all. There are not easy or quick answers going forward. We feel the grief of all that we have lost; whoever we are and however we've been affected by the fire that has changed so much for us. We may feel as if we are walking a solitary path. Other times we might begin to notice others are walking alongside us. We may have days we feel energized by the light and other days not so much. It is the journey of grief – and each of us will experience it differently, influenced by our age, our culture, our history with past grief and our experience of hope and of faith. Through it all, my prayer for each of you is to know the light, to remember the light that walks with you and within you. To remember your belovedness, especially on those days when everything worldly seems too distant to hold. On those days, remember the light has not left you. It is here in each of us. Jesus has said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). So let your light shine and when you can't then maybe just look around you and see the light in another and let this be your guide. We Are Not Alone We Live in God's World.

This Sunday we gather for our last National Lead Online Worship service. I give thanks for all who have offered their faith and their time to us and for us. I don't know if you were aware, but all these folks gave out of the goodness of their heart, volunteering their time to share their light and love for Jasper United Church. They were/are the light for us in our darkness.

The link for this coming Sunday is the link we've been using all along. You will find it below. Next Sunday is the start of Advent. The start of Advent felt a fitting time to begin something new. So, beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup>, we will move to a hybrid offering of both a gathering in person and online worship. I will send out more information on this next week.

I close with this prayer/poem offering by Steve Garness Holmes<sup>1</sup>

### **Held**

This moment, stop.

Be still.

The Beloved says,

"I am holding you."

Notice the planet earth.

Yes, "I am holding you."

The light of day and the dark of night

say "I am holding you."

No matter what happens,

triumph or tragedy,

we are held.

It's all right to want paradise,

but for now, here,

let it be enough

that we are so lovingly, tenderly,

mightily held.

We gather this Sunday to celebrate the Reign of Christ Sunday. The texts invite us to come with childlike wonder to know the certainty of God's reign with us always, a light that is given to you to hold and let shine.

Here is your Zoom link for this coming Sunday's Prayer Worship Service at 1030 MT. Rev. Peter Chynoweth will gather us in prayerful worship.

Let us gather as a community.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89719605248?pwd=A14lsw8tDFCHIFYWE4apyP80HUxOfp.1>

Meeting ID: 897 1960 5248

Passcode: 608334-

You are invited to share the link to invite others who might wish to gather.

Blessings on your day,

Rev. Linda

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<sup>1</sup> Steve Garness Holmes, Held - Unfolding Light, accessed @ <https://unfoldinglight.net/2024/11/17/held/>