

Message

Last week I shared this passage from “The Five Principles,” the book many of us are exploring together.

(p 31) Imagine living instead in our Oneness with God. Life would still have its human difficulties, but our view of them would be changed. Rather than battling an outer enemy, we would take charge of our lives from within. We would transcend our labels of what is good or bad and live in the flow of the universe. Nothing might change in our outer circumstances, but our interpretation of them, our understanding would take on new meaning. In the Absolute Realm, All is One. God is all there is. God is Absolute Good. We might never comprehend the Ground of Being while we are in human form. But we know it and sense it, and we can learn to trust it.

How do we sense and trust that All is One and then LIVE from that starting point? As a community, we affirm every week the prayerful gift of envisioning a transformed world. Living from the Ground of Our Being is at the heart of our vision and mission, our call to the paradox of BEING and DOING. We pray in a trust that affirms that we walk in love, that affirms our co-creation with the Power and Presence of God. And we do this in service to our community and the world.

Ram Das and Mirabai Bush write in ***Compassion in Action:***

“Each of us can do something. ...And although we each can't do everything, together we can make a difference...Everything in our lives has brought us to exactly where we are. When we don't already know what is calling us to act, all we need to do is look and listen right where we are – it will probably

be near. Maybe not geographically near, because our neighborhoods are not only physical, but it will be near.

When asked where she thought people should start looking, peace activist Fran Peavey said, ‘There are opportunities for service all the time...Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, you can serve there. It doesn't have to be a big idea. It can be right where you are.’

There is so much to celebrate about the ways this community shows up, authentically, prayerfully, in all the glory of being fully human and fully divine. As we continue to live into our vision and mission, we continue to ask “What is mine to do?”

The gift of the self-compassion portion of loving kindness is that we are called to see our gifts, to be stewards of the grace of God, called to love and accept ourselves as one with God and with each other. And in recognizing who we are, through prayerful discernment, we also are called to co-create with God the world we long to see, the peace we long to see. We can find our path into service by truly seeing into our own hearts what makes us come alive. Where do I find joy? Where does my sacred purpose and passion lead me? What does the world need of me, from me, and what does God need from me as I follow the call to be the heart and hands and voice of Spirit alive in the world?

And as always this leads me to the twin aspects of living a life of spirit we are called to do our own deep, individual work of prayer, of meditation, of listening --listening to the voice of God within. And we are called to then bring all of us to bear in service to our community and the world. Can we hear the call?

I'll close with this beautiful poem/prayer by Rev Steve Garnaas-Holmes that pulls us into the sacred wisdom of Corinthians,

***To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.***

—1 Corinthians 12:7

What gifts you have—your humor, your patience,
your love of beauty, your trust—
are not for you.
They are for the common good.

Jesus did not turn water into wine for himself.

Your spiritual gifts are whatever ways
the Spirit moves in you—
maybe a talent or ability,
maybe just the way you come at the world.
Your gifts include what you think of as weakness:
your ready tears, your slow pace, your silence;
the world needs those, too.

The community needs your gifts,
needs all of who you are.
Not the pretend parts,
the things you do to fit in
or to keep people from reacting.
But the real you, Spirit alive in you
in all her peculiar ways.

It's not arrogant to share that with the world.
It's evangelism.
Trust the God that lives in you.

Trust the God that lives in you, in me, in all of creation. As we trust that Love, we
share the load. How will you answer the call?