

Sunday March 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent
Inlet United Church, Port Moody
Inletunited.ca

Welcome to a time of worship and reflection

The Prayers and scripture selections are from “Worship Design Studio.” This week is called “The Last Supper: You Are Invited” It is part of our worship series for Lent. But each week stands alone so you can easily follow if you missed previous weeks. The reflection is written by Rev. Julie Lebrun at Inlet United Church. InletUnited.ca

You can follow this paper here for everything you need.

Prayer

Sometimes we just aren't paying attention.
We can keep our heads in the sand
when we really need to attend to difficult situations,
or the needs of your people.
Forgive us, O God.
Guard us from distancing ourselves,
and help us to care for what's right in front of us.
You entered our story through Jesus,
now help us to enter fully into the story
of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Assurance

Know this: Our lives contain continual opportunities
to be in humble service to friends and strangers.
You are forgiven and freed,
encouraged and loved
by a God who wants you to live fully.

Let us enter the passion of Christ,
and take a moment to pray for peace, comfort and energy where it is
most needed....

May Peace be with you in each breath you take. Amen

Scripture Reading

John 13:3-16

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—

and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Reflection by Rev. Julie Lebrun

I will be speaking and recording this reflection to go online, so I'm giving you my speaking version. It doesn't follow all the English writing rules...sorry English teachers out there!

Let's Pray, Loving God, we pray that the words of mouth and the meditations of all our hearts and minds be Enlightened and nurtured by your Spirit. Amen.

Part of our Christian Tradition is reading scripture alongside observing the world we live in. The purpose of reflecting on scripture is to listen for a word of life, word of God for us today.

Today we look at the story known as "the last supper."

(Peter's world does not make sense)

- Jesus and his disciples were gathered for a meal.
- People would have traveled by foot on dusty roads.
- It was customary for the servant of the house to wash the guests' feet upon arrival.
- this was an act of hospitality
- It would be like my asking for your coat if you came to my house for dinner.

But something very strange happens.

Jesus, the guest of honor, gets up from the table, ties a towel around himself, pours water into a basin, and begins to wash the disciples' feet.

-Simon Peter is confused. His world as he knows is not making sense.

-When it's Simon Peter's turn for Jesus to wash his feet, Simon Peter says, "Lord, you are going to wash my feet?...you will never wash my feet."

-Simon Peter's world is turned upside down.

-The usual hierarchy of things is disturbed.

-The hierarchy of our world is certainly disturbed today.

-When it comes to the COVID 19 virus, all people are at risk.

-Royalty, like Prince Charles, wealth, status...does not protect you.

-Certain populations, of course, are more vulnerable, but all human beings are at risk of catching or unknowingly spreading this virus.

-We are also equal in our ability to stop spreading the virus by physically distancing from people, hand washing, not touching your face.

(provided all people have access to water and shelter)

Lately , **our daily lives, the world as we know it not making sense the same way it did just a few weeks ago.**

-We can't gather together in person for worship

-We need to stay home, just going out for necessities like groceries

-If we have returned home from travels, we must stay home for 2 weeks

-Not visiting with family and friends in person and keeping a 2 meters distance from people if we need to go out.

-I feel especially for people living in care facilities like Parkwood, Nickola Lodge and many others, who can't have visitors come in to see them.

- so difficult for the people living there and for families who desperately want to see them.
- Schools will remain closed after spring break, business are closing, this list of changes go on...and on...

Our world, our daily lives don't make sense in the same way. Things can feel turned upside down.

This action of Jesus washing the disciple's feet turns things upside down.

But it also becomes the action the can save the world *that can put the world in renewed order.*

- The action Jesus is doing- washing their feet
- He's demonstrating to the disciple to be servants, to serve each other, to serve people in the community they live in.
- He is showing them, the hierarchy is not what you thought.
- By tying a towel around his around himself, he shows that he too is a servant.
- Jesus the master teacher is not greater that anyone else.
 - He also is meant to serve.

- But remember washing the disciple's feet, is an act of hospitality.
- Hospitality means we are invited into something.
- but what is it, Jesus is inviting Simon Peter and the others to??

He is inviting them into the kingdom of God.

Sidebar- Kingdom of God is not about riches and wealth.

- By Kingdom of God I'm talking about God's dream of Peace and Shalom for all people.
- No one is excluded.

-This means food, shelter, health care, community, love, support, belonging... for all people. That is the wholeness of Shalom

-Some people like to call the kingdom of God- the kin dom of God
KIN dom ---I like this because it speaks to connection of all people—we are all KIN **end side bar**

Jesus is inviting them into the KIN dom of God

-Jesus tell the disciples, I have washed your feet, do the same, wash each other feet, and serve each other.

-Later he tells them “Love one and other as I have loved you”

This is how we co-create this dream of Shalom for all- KIN dom of God.

-we serve each other, we care for each other

-we also receive from each other

-it may not be actually foot washing.... many ways to care...

Put our world right

-The results of the COVID 19 turns our world upside down.

-The world doesn't make sense as it did just a few weeks ago.

-But is also becomes the **event the can save our world -that can put the world in renewed order.**

-Peace, Shalom, health for all, because it has to be all of us

-If **one** member suffers, all suffer together; if **one** member is honored, all rejoice ... If **one** part of our body **hurts**, we **hurt** all over. 1 Cor.

12:26

-We are invited into a new time of serving each other...of loving each other in some radical ways.

-Caring for ourselves and each other has become more important than all of our individual endeavors.

- going to work, trips to Italy or Guatemala , shopping leisurely for a food or cloths, seeing your grandkids, dinner with friends, visiting your elderly parents, being in the Olympics...

-we are giving up a lot right now, this is how we are being asked to serve each other...to love one and other

-we are part of something much bigger

-there is no hierarchy

-Because of covid 19, we can no longer deny the kin ship of all people.

-We need each other-- and we need each other to be healthy for all of us to survive and thrive.

-An elite health care system for a part of the world's population does not treat a pandemic

-This means we need health care, which includes basics like food, shelter, community, love, support, belonging... for all people. That is Shalom, the KIN dom of God

We are in this together

7 billion people must come together as one.

Says Dr. Elvis a surgeon from Mayo clinic who also sings to the staff and patients.

-COVID 19 is turning the world upside down

-This pandemic is disrupting the assumed hierarchy

-This pandemic is showing how deeply connected people are to each other.

-this pandemic is showing the creativity of people singing in the streets- doing a happy birthday parade for a little boy, of connecting with phone calls and email and Zoom.

-from Vancouver to Quebec

-Italy, to Spain, China, Iran, Africa everywhere in between

-we are all kin

- we are learning to work together
- to love and serve each other in unprecedented ways
 - by following the recommendations of our health care providers
 - keeping physical distance, stay home, and wash your hands
 - by finding creative to connect from a safe distance.

This is how we say yes to the invitation of understanding our world in a renewed way.

-we can no longer deny our KIN ship as a human family on this earth

We know these things, we will be blessed when live... as if it is so. Amen

Closing Prayer

O Sun behind all suns

O Soul within all souls

grant me the grace of the dawn's glory

grant me the strength of the sun's rays

that I may be well in my own soul

and part of the world's healing this day

that I may be well in my own soul

and part of the world's healing this day. Amen.

(from Celtic Benediction by J. Philip Newell)

Peace and Blessing from Rev Julie and Rev Jenn at Inlet United

I welcome your feedback and your thoughts on the Reflection
minister@sauc.ca