



*We are a Christian community committed to thoughtful, creative worship,
caring for each other, those around us, and the world.*

Fish Tales

12 January 2017

Grace Notes

This Sunday we'll be having a Hymn-Sing instead of a sermon, and oh, how I will miss joining my voice with yours! On Monday afternoon I had the intriguing experience of (listening to/watching as/observing/hearing/feeling) my voice descend from soprano through bass into oblivion over a three hour period of time. It was the (TMI alert!) colorful sputum that brought on the antibiotics with this bronchitis. I'm on 100% therapeutic vocal silence for a few days to protect my vocal chords. You know me. No speaking?? No singing?? No yelling at Bailey?? Not even WHISPERING?? Tough. I'm voluntarily quarantining myself until I'm no longer infectious, not wanting to spread this virus. I'm not scheduled to preach this Sunday, but it was my hope to come and sing along with you as a worshipper. If I'm well enough by Sunday morning (no longer contagious), I may come in silence, and "my heart be blessed with the sound of music..."

Songs are important. The hymnody of the Church has shaped Christians since the earliest days. Paul actually quoted a circulating hymn in Philippians 2. We have chant tones from the catacombs and first cathedrals in use today. "I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love..." We have always told our stories in song of faith, passing on Good News to the next generation and to those "...who've never heard of the message of salvation from God's own holy Word."

I learned the value of peace-making as we sang "I ain't gonna study war no more.." and "Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore." When I sing "Take my life that I may be consecrated, Lord, to Thee" or "Here I am Lord..." those words came out of my own heart and soul, not just dusty history or the composer's ink. Singing "We shall overcome," and "Lift every voice and sing," the Spirit led the Church to put reputations, livelihoods, and even their very lives on the line in non-violent protest, marching in the streets of this nation during the Civil Rights movement.

Song shape our understanding of ourselves as individuals, as families, as Church, as nation. They express our identity and our values. They teach us, comfort us, celebrate, praise, meditate, and call us into action. They also can warp us. "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus, going on before..." I loved that melody, and that sense of urgency and community when lots of folks sing it together. But I can't sing those words anymore. That's why the Church throughout its existence has continually revised its hymnody as our understanding of God's will and our society itself is reformed.

Suffragettes marched in the streets to call for a constitutional amendment that eventually granted women the right to vote. Women working in the textile industry went on a successful strike in early 1912 and marched for better working conditions. They sang:

*As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing, bread and roses, bread and roses.*

*As we come marching, marching, we battle too, for men,
For they are in the struggle and together we shall win.
Our days shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread, but give us roses.*

*As we come marching, marching, un-numbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread,
Small art and love and beauty their trudging spirits knew
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.*

*As we go marching, marching, we're standing proud and tall.
The rising of the women means the rising of us all.
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories, bread and roses, bread and roses.
(Bread and Roses, by James Oppenheim, 1911)*

On Friday January 20th, people of good will are gathering in Anacortes and across the nation to let it be known that we stand up with and for those whose rights and human dignity are threatened now, or in days to come. Click here for details on this [Women's March on Anacortes : Candlelight Vigil](#) It begins at the BikeSpot on Commercial at 5:00 p.m.

(Know that this is actually a SHORTER version of this article than the original. Look what happens when a preacher can't talk!)

Some attribute this quote to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary, use words." I invite everyone to join in that proclamation Sunday in our Hymn-Sing, and on the 20th with your bodily presence if possible, and otherwise, in your prayers.

--Pastor Heidi

Still to Come!

Dear Ones, I still need to get these blurbs written, but I've just run out of energy. So, here's a list of what's on my list to send out as a supplement soon.

- New Members – contact Pastor Heidi. Hope to receive y'all on January 29th.
- Leadership Team Recruitment – our new constitution includes an increased minimum.
- Dinner At the Brick – Maureen, Shannon and Dave are coordinating, and first time is this Sunday
- Reminder of Annual Meeting on January 29th including the adoption of our new constitution.
- Pastor Heidi and the Worship Team are scheduling a planning retreat soon. Interested?
- "Let Love Be Our Legacy" – progressive churches and pastors are organizing. Cool logo!
- Volunteers Needed – collecting a list of short, do-able projects that need doing, but we aren't staffed for them. Example – someone to collect every (willing) one's birthdays in a list for Pastor Heidi
- Date for Faith Advocacy Day at the Legislature Feb 9 (I think)
- Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center's Annual Meeting Jan 28th.
- Looking for our second ceramic chalice painted with grapes and "Given For You."
Did someone take it home to clean?
- Time to update membership directory

January 15

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Worship
Depot Arts & Community Center
611 R Avenue, Anacortes

Presider

Ken Bosworth

Assisting Minister

Judith Bosworth

Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42