



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast August 2, 2020

Note on this Sunday's Chapel worship: This Sunday is Communion Sunday and we will follow the same ritual that we did last month – bread and your cup will be in the pews when you arrive.

Sunday Readings (9th Sunday After Pentecost-“Proper 13” Year A)

Genesis 32:22-31: After serving Laban for many years, Jacob has decided to return home to Canaan. He has sent messengers ahead to Esau seeking favour with him, but they have returned with the news that his brother is bringing an army with him. Jacob asks God for deliverance and has sought to appease Esau.
Psalms 17:1-7, 16: The psalm is interesting. The petitioner claims “I’ve done my part. Now, God I am looking to you to fulfil your promises.” Read the whole Psalm not just the verses here to get the full sense of that almost legal argument. It reminds us of the book of Job.

Romans 9:1-5: Paul has written of the new life in Christ, in the love of God, aided by the Holy Spirit. Christians are adopted as children of God and share in the heritage of Christ. Now he confronts a question which obviously grieves him: why have most of God's people, the Jews, rejected the good news?

Matthew 14:13-21: Jesus has been teaching his disciples and the crowds about the Kingdom of God. But his words are not accepted by all. He has been rejected in his hometown and misunderstood by Herod. (Herod, who had executed John, thinks that Jesus may be John the Baptist raised from the dead.) Jesus, trying to get away to be by himself, feeds 5000 hungry people.

Not a sermon...(really! just some thoughts)

“Why the Revised Common Lectionary is Killing Churches”: an interesting article from the Living Church Foundation, June 30, 2016. Like many good articles it makes a bold, general claim to get your attention, then raise some valid points. While one may not agree with this general statement, the article makes a few good points: (1) the *four lessons on Sunday are really too much to absorb in one sitting (or to preach on!); (2) people don't attend church everyday and follow the lectionary day-by-day like they did when the idea of lectionary first started around the 7th century; (3) the goal was: “The prayerful reading and knowledge of Scripture is one of the basic building blocks of Christian growth in prayer, love, and holiness.” But “The net result is that a Sunday morning liturgy now brings together unrelated parts.”

In the article, the author softens the brash headline a little by writing, “Pastors and priests are weakening people's faith every Sunday, and they don't even realize it.” Weakening, not destroying. Many may not agree with that wording either! [Opinion starts here] The goal, #3, is still a valid goal, and the Lectionary provides a planned exposure to Scripture, a discipline, a spiritual practice which remains valuable. However, don't feel bad if it doesn't work for you, or work for you now! The Spirit will guide you where you are with what you need at that time. Be open.....

**The four lessons: Old Testament, Psalms, Epistle/Letter, and Gospel.*

“Food for 5000”: In the sermon for this Sunday, we will look at the Matthew reading from three viewpoints to cast a different light on a familiar story: (1) what is the context of this piece of scripture (what happened right before this, what happened afterwards, how many miracles were there really); (2) notice how Jesus's behavior rubbed off on the disciples; (3) this episode of bringing people together reminds us of the Eucharist, Communion.



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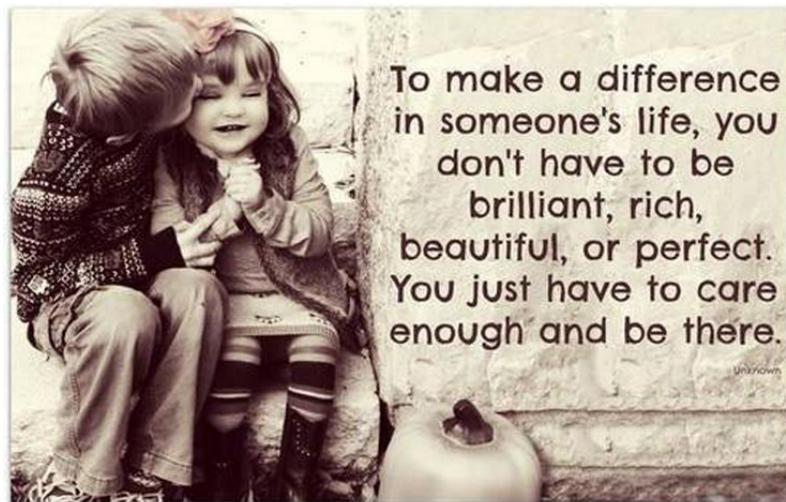
Prayers for other and prayer lists: You'll notice three people we pray for who have cancer. I doubt there are many of us who don't know someone who had or has cancer. There are probably some of us who have had cancer ourselves or still have cancer. This is just one of the illnesses that we see everyday, and it is just one of the many reasons we pray for ourselves and others.

There's not a Sunday that goes by that I personally have to say to myself: "Vance, you have no idea what the people who are here for church have been through this week and are going through now. Just think about what you yourself went through this week!" People come to church, I believe, largely for two reasons: habit and some kind of suffering.

Imagine the people who followed Jesus and the disciples in the Matthew scripture for this Sunday. 5000 all healthy and happy? I doubt it. What was Jesus's response?

"...he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick..." Learning the people had no food, Jesus, 'Bring them here to me.'"

We can provide physical food and spiritual food for those people we pray for. Sometimes we don't know what to do or what to say, but just – being – there is what's needed. We should let that part of Jesus rub off on all of us. May it be so. AMEN.



Prayers for Richard, Ann, and Cynthia living with a cancer diagnosis; Chris undergoing cancer treatment; the safety and good health of residents and visitors to Raquette Lake; our leaders to make wise decisions about COVID-19.

www.raquettelakechapel.org
