

Worship in Place: a guide

First United Methodist of Cuero, Texas: Sunday, May 17, 2020

Out of an abundance of caution we gather in our homes for this time of worship.

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Greeting and Prayer		Pastor Ron
Song of Praise	“Seek Ye First”	Bobby Jones
Special Music	“In the Secret”	Rev. Wanda Ritchea
Reading from the Gospel	Luke 12:6-7	Pastor Ron

A message for the day

Pastor Ron

Have you ever felt overlooked or forgotten? Maybe just ignored? I imagine in one way or another we all have. And in one way or another we've probably been guilty of overlooking another at one point along the journey. We might ignore the physical or emotional pain someone is experiencing. We might overlook the importance or contribution another makes to our culture. Jesus understood this and he had a ministry that reached out in many ways to those society tended to overlook; those that society considered almost worthless. These two small verses in the 12th chapter of Luke's Gospel reminds the followers of Jesus that God doesn't overlook the least in our midst. Jesus uses the imagery of the sparrow, an image his followers would quickly understand and easily remember. Five sparrows were rather inexpensive to purchase; about the sum of 1/8th of a day's wages. And yet, God does not overlook even one of them. God values them. That says a lot about God. It says a lot about how much God values all of the created order.

A few days ago, Darlene and I were getting ready for a morning walk and this passage from scripture took on new meaning. As I stepped out the front door, I immediately saw a young sparrow on the sidewalk doing its level best to stay invisible. The little bird didn't appear to be injured. It was a youngster that had either fallen out of its nest a tad early or had been evicted by its parents. Either way the little sparrow needed a little help and we simply could not overlook the need. Darlene immediately crafted a nest out of a hanging basket and we placed it in a tree close by. Young birds are still tended to by their parents even when they are on the ground. But being on the ground raises the danger level greatly so we wanted to help it find a safer spot to play invisible. Flying is critical but flying was not in the playbook just yet. So, a bit of protection was needed. The little bird hopped around pretty well. It could flutter here and there. But it just didn't want to stay in the nest. It liked hovering around the base of the tree. We did our best - gave it a bit of food, and prayed it would make it somehow. And we kept an eye out for predators. Over the next several days we looked for that sparrow.

Let us continue to remember as we shelter in place, as we move about cautiously, as we deal with the pandemic in a variety of ways, that many will be overlooked, that basic needs will go

unmet, that the anxiety of these days will be great. And we need one another on the journey. We must not forget how much God values each and every one of us. And let us be vigilant in our care for one another. Let us look for the ones who have been overlooked. It is amazing how much you can see when you are intentional about looking, about keeping an eye out.

Did our little sparrow make it? Well, we think there is more than a strong chance it did. We know we spotted it once and as we see the little birds feeding in our front yard there are several strong candidates for “Sparrow of the Year” among them.

God loves you. God cares about you. And God says you won’t be overlooked on my watch. No. Not at all.

Let us be faithful followers. Let us also love others. Let us continue to care about everyone. And let us be alert and look for those in our midst who have been overlooked.

Remembering Joys and Concerns

Pastor Ron

A Prayer Focus: University Campuses

Continue to remember all schools in your daily prayers. But may I invite you to focus on the University and College systems this week. Darlene and I frequently walk the campus at Texas Lutheran University here in Seguin and we wonder what the future holds for not only the students but the existence of the schools as well. It is an anxious time. Let us pray for wisdom and discernment for those tasked with the responsibility of making the critical decisions as to how our colleges will move forward.

The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

Bobby Jones

Blessing and Dismissal

Pastor Ron