

Creation Sermon Series
Sacred Earth/Sacred Word—Week 3 of 6
“Turn, Turn, Turn” (For Everything There Is a Season)
Message by DD Adams
Holy Communion Sunday
August 5, 2018

The Old Testament text today is Psalm 30. I’d like the congregation to read “antiphonally”— “back and forth”— with the right side of the sanctuary beginning and then the left side answering.

R: I exalt you, Lord, because you pulled me up;

L: you didn’t let my enemies celebrate over me.

R: Lord, my God, I cried out to you for help,

L: and you healed me.

R: Lord, you brought me up from the grave,

L: brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit.

R: You who are faithful to the Lord, sing praises to him;

L: give thanks to his holy name!

R: God’s anger lasts for only a second,

L: but God’s favor lasts a lifetime.

R: Weeping may stay all night,

L: but by morning, joy!

R: When I was comfortable, I said,

L: “I will never stumble.”

R: Because it pleased you, Lord,

L: you made me a strong mountain.

R: But then you hid your presence.

L: I was terrified.

R: I cried out to you, Lord.

L: I begged my Lord for mercy:

R: “What is to be gained by my spilled blood,

L: by my going down into the pit?

R: Does dust thank you?

L: Does it proclaim your faithfulness?

R: Lord, listen and have mercy on me!

L: Lord, be my helper!”

R: You changed my mourning into dancing.

L: You took off my funeral clothes and dressed me up in joy

R: so that my whole being might sing praises to you and never stop.

L: Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

R: This is a Word of God.

L: Thanks be to God.

R: All creation is a word of God.

L: All creation speaks volumes of God.

When we step into our Christian journey, no matter what our age, and we enter with faith. We take our worries and joys and all of our frustrations, and we determine to trust God and give thanks. Psalm 30 is all about the turns that life brings and our response.

Our opening prayer for today, written by Meister Eckhardt (German theologian/philosopher mid 13-14 cent.) encourages us to apprehend and be aware that God is at every turn and season of our lives. Sometimes our desire is to run

from God and hide . . . but God is everywhere and promises to never leave or abandon us. It's us who have gone out for a walk.

The pain we see and experience in life truly coexists with the goodness of God. We groan, the world groans, and the Spirit grieves with us, and in everything there is a season, still, our inmost yearning is to take hold of how very close God is to us—regardless of where that turning has taken us.

In Psalm 30 in almost every line the psalmist either expresses thanks and praise for God's deliverance or describes the circumstances of that deliverance. Psalm 30 is a thanksgiving to God, and it ends with "*I will* give thanks."

Today we'll join together with God for Holy Communion. It's a time we remember Christ as we eat and drink together. As a means of grace, Communion provides the spiritual strength we need to continue as a Christ follower. It's a time we encounter the living presence of Christ among us.

I was reading a devotion by Richard Rohr recently, and he notes the powerful effect that the Lord's Supper can have on us. We encounter Christ's body and blood in the forms of bread and juice having supper with the Lord. It's intended to change us as we become more like Christ, and to carry that peace of Christ with us in order to share it with others.

The opening prayer by Meister Eckhardt states the all-present nature of God. He reiterates that "God is in all things and every single creature is full of God."

That's a challenging concept. Now the flip side of that concept is this. To intentionally practice and acknowledge the presence of God during Communion, as we will here today—that Christ is here with us.

How is it we see Christ? He's everywhere. He's here, and if He's here, then He's in all people and everything He created. Can we say Christ is here but not there? Jesus ate and drank with all people. Prostitutes, gigolos, thieves, self-righteous religious people, enemies, those of different religions, races, sexual orientations, and all people everywhere. Christ is everywhere and in everyone.

We were all created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27, Eph 1:3-4). And it's that "likeness" of God within us that we have the opportunity to cultivate and develop in our lives. What we're seeking to develop is our True Self. It's the divine nature in all of us. Of course, we differ in likeness, but that divine imago Dei within each human being remains. It's our choice or not our choice to develop that image. How might you think our lives would change if we saw the presence of Christ in all people?

Despite the season of life we find ourselves in and how it's turning and turning, be it joyous or sad, let's make it our aim to apprehend the spirit of the living God that is everywhere, all at once, and at the same time present with us so we might be a bearer of peace to all. To see Christ in all people and to acknowledge that Christ came to save the lost and to give grace and mercy and the

love of God to all we meet. Let's recognize the presence of God and pray that we would share the peace of Christ—spreading the goodness of God.

Please pray with me. God who is all-present and in all things, bless all who are in your presence today. Lord grant that we might grow and mature as we take hold of each season and turning acknowledging that you are present in all of that. Give us eyes to see your blessings in the midst of sorrow, joy in the midst of loss, and most of all God, grant us persistence to find and develop that True Self that is You within the core of our being. May God be blessed and given glory in all things. Amen.