

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 313-673-6519 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Lee
Preaching: Carol
Presiding: Carolyn
Coffee Hour:

Readings this week:

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost,
23 October, 2016

First Reading:

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65 •
 Sirach 35:12-17 or
 Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
 and Psalm 84:1-7

Psalm: (above)

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

The other day I was listening to a panel on MPR discussing —what else?—the election. Someone phoned in suggesting that maybe it should be postponed for a month. The response of the panel? Stunned silence, and then all three, “no, no, no” “we couldn’t bear it....” “Don’t even think about it...”



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

I think they were speaking for many/most/all of us.

Why does this time seem so stressful, so wrenching, so negative? And what can we as people of faith do about it?

Some suggestions, (which I’m trying myself):

1. Pray. In our gospel for yesterday (which Bob and Karen H. so enthusiastically acted for us), we are given permission to nag. “Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray and not to lose heart.” I’m trying to turn my angst into prayer, nagging God to “grant justice.” (Luke 18:1-8)
2. If you must listen or watch media (!), try listening THROUGH. What is the fear, the sense of helplessness and loss, the scarcity that we are witnessing? How do we approach that with compassion, rather than on its own terms?
3. Limit your use of “us” and “them” thinking. It’s so easy, when looking at ourselves—US—to see the complexities, the hurts, the good reasons for our way of thinking and being. When we look at THEM—it’s too easy to use a broad brush. As Christians we are called to err on the side of

Forums: 2016 - 2017

Forums — we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

Nov. 13th — Matthew

Dec. 4th — South Africa

Jan. — Immigration

Feb. — Sacraments

March — Arts and social change

April — the Ten Commandments

May — prayer.

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mercy and grace when we speak about others.

These are things we can do to “de-escalate” some of the turmoil of this time. We can also choose involvement in the election. Or we can escalate our involvement with things that really matter to us —feeding the hungry, working for better education, etc.

The media must, in order to survive, keep us watching and listening, keep us on the edge. We keep the faith that God is in control. And we nag, nag, nag. *MEA*

Here is news from Bob and Brenda Gordon, who live part of the year in Savannah. Brenda writes:

“We were spared by a 5 degree turn Hurricane Matthew took. Our neighborhood has massive tree damage, but did not get the storm surge that was expected. Many homes are damaged. But not like you see up the coast. I wish Matthew would have kept turning!

Certainly put in perspective the idea of “control” for me. Not in a helpless, defenseless way. Things happen, and our strength and control come from how we deal with it. It was wonderful to see people helping each other and reaching out to others.

We will be spending some time in GM this winter- looking forward to snow days and seeing my GM mates!

Thank you for your thoughts,

Brenda