

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: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Mary Ellen
Coffee Hour:

Readings this week:

Reign of Christ,
20 November, 2016

First Reading:

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke
 1:68-79 • Jeremiah 23:1-6
 and Psalm 46

Psalm: (above)

Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

(Click on citation to link directly to the reading.)



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

In my sermon Sunday I talked about how Augustine (as the Goths were sacking Rome) wrote in his *City of God*, that as Christians we live in two ‘cities’—the earthly one that we see around us—and the heavenly one that is invisible. The earthly one—which can seem secure as Rome seemed, as Jerusalem seemed—can and will be shaken. The heavenly one cannot. We are called to work hard in the earthly city, to make it more like the heavenly city—where as we saw in our passage from Isaiah 65 is a place where there is no more homelessness, hunger, early death, and cruelty. We are called to work toward that, but cannot be surprised when the earthly city lets us down.

Many/most/all of us felt shocked/stunned/saddened by the election results last week. At our gathering in Harbor Park we heard from people who were afraid, who weren’t sleeping, who felt they’d woken into a different country, where hatred, bigotry and bullying are okay. As we shared our feelings and expressed kindness toward each other, many of us felt some hope. We will find ways to follow up on this gathering—for comfort, but also to see what we can be doing to make this ‘earthly city’ more like the heavenly one.

As we were beginning to disperse from our gathering in Harbor Park, three women of color—two from Minneapolis and one from Texas came along. We found that they were in Grand Marais to celebrate one’s birthday.

“How did you choose Grand Marais?” we asked.

“We looked at the electoral map.”

Before we could respond, they said, “We felt we’d be safe here. We have to think about that now.”

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Dec. 4th — History & Meaning of Advent

Jan. — Immigration

Feb. — Sacraments

March — Arts and social change

April — the Ten Commandments

May — prayer.

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Requesting special prayers for Steve Ashcroft they are doing genetic testing on his tumor to see what mutation it has, in preparation for some drug trials, since the other chemo he's on doesn't usually last long. *MEA*

Let's commit to holding our hearts open to love, to welcome, to care for those most vulnerable. "Surely it is God who saves me." *MEA*

Notes:

- 1.) The Forum in December will be done by **Carolyn Schmidt** on History and Meaning of Advent.
- 2.) If people would like to be part of an email group following up from our gathering on Saturday, please let **Mary Ellen** know. <maryellenvicar@gmail.com>
- 3.) There will be an interdenominational **Thanksgiving** service on **Thanksgiving Eve** at 6:30 at the Congregational Church. Mary Ellen will be preaching and members of other churches are participating. It would mean a lot to me (MEA) to see lots of SOTW attendance the service. Important to have as many there as possible to show unity.
- 4.) **Saturday, Dec. 3rd**, will be SOTW's opportunity to ring Salvation Army bells at Gene's IGA. Mark your calendars.....



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Minnesota Clergy Responding to the Election:

To our neighbors who are anxious this week because you are women, Muslim, African American, Native American, Latino/a, immigrant, LGBTQ persons, and differently-abled, We see you. Many of us are you.

We know that overt sexism, corruption, xenophobia, racism, homophobia, and Islamophobia have not only been undercurrents of our political rhetoric this year, but, in many cases, prominent features of it.

After the election, like many of you, we woke with a gnawing fear that that rhetoric might translate into acts of injustice against you, your families, and your bodies.

As priests and deacons of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, we believe that every person is created in God's image, imbued and blessed with inherent dignity and worth. We reject the notion that one group of people benefit only at the expense of another group. We will not sit idly by and allow the rights and dignity of any of our community to be threatened or revoked.

We see you and we stand with you.

Simultaneously, we repent of where the church has failed or fallen down in this work - we know we have not always stood with you. We recognize the great responsibility the church has to join in God's mission to reconcile the world, to never cease in working against injustice, and we commit to working for policies and systems that will bring healing and restoration and relief.

We will continue the work of peace and justice, to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and welcome the refugee and immigrant.

We will be active in civic conversations.

We will build bridges of friendship and kinship between our faith communities.

We will be committed to breaking bread with all our neighbors and witness to the strength of respectful relationship in these times.

To any of our neighbors who find themselves the target of discrimination, racism, islamophobia, homophobia, sexism, or any kind of bigotry – we are with you. We pledge our support as leaders in the wider community, that we will stand between you and injustice. Our doors are open and our faith communities are safe spaces to any who need them.

God's gift to us is our difference and diversity. We believe we are strengthened as a diverse people by the great gifts you bring to our common life.

Whatever comes next, we want to be in relationship with you and we commit to being strong allies with you.

We see you and we stand with you!

Faithfully,

The Reverends Vant Albert Washington III Minneapolis; Devon Anderson Excelsior; Alice Mae Applequist Chatfield; Mary Ellen Ashcroft Grand Marais; Marilyn Baldwin White Bear Lake; Susan Barnes Minneapolis; Phil Boelter Minneapolis; Kate Bradtmiller St. Paul; Cindi Brickson Minneapolis; Cynthia Bronson Sweigert Minneapolis; Deborah E. Brown Eagan; Lydia Huttar Brown Minneapolis; John Bellaimy Minneapolis; Joy Cairns St. Paul; Justin Chapman Faribault; Rob Cavanna Elk River; Tom Cook Edina; Cassandra Cook-Quarry Faribault; Judith DesHarnais St. Paul; Susan Daughtry Minneapolis; Barbara del Caro Scaia Minneapolis; Terry Dinovo St. Paul; Lee Domenick Minneapolis; Jan Dougherty Eagan; Guy Drake Minnetonka; John Dwyer Roseville; Tom Eklo Richfield; Barb Elliot Duluth; Diane Elliott Edina; Neil Elliott St. Paul; Margaret Fell Minneapolis; Leonard Freeman Minnetonka; Lindsay Freeman Minnetonka; Tom Gehlsen Rochester; Morris Goodwin Wayzata;

Buff Grace Stillwater; Dawnlynn Greeney Minneapolis; Mary Groening Ely; Cheryl Harder Hermantown; Tom Harries St. Peter; Eileen Harvala Anoka; Cindy Hillger Minnetonka; Georgia Hecock Detroit Lakes; Lisa Wiens Heinsoh Edina; Cindy Hillger Minnetonka; Brenda Hoffman Hastings; Sandra Holmberg Detroit Lakes; Judy Hoover Golden Valley; Randy Johnson White Bear Lake; Eunice Koch Ely; Craig Lemming Minneapolis; Katherine Lewis Minnetonka; Jason Lucas Wayzata; Janet MacNally Roseville; Marta Maddy Duluth; Colin Maltbie Faribault; Gayle Mardene Marsh Northfield; Margy Mattlin St. Paul; Sally Maxwell Duluth; Rex McKee St. Paul; Jennifer McNally Sunfish Lake; Anne Miner-Pearson Excelsior; Scott Monson Basswood; Grove Susan Moss St. Paul; Keely Morgan St. Paul; Anthony Morley Minneapolis; Barbara Mraz St. Paul; Lynn Naeckel International Falls; Fre Nairn Minnetonka; Charles Nelson Albertville; Theo Park Sunfish Lake; Daniel Pearson St. Louis Park; Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski Duluth; Mary Phelps Anoka; Roger V. Phillips Sauk Centre; Michael Pipkin Edina; Blair Pogue St. Paul; John Rettger Minneapolis; Paul Rider Mankato; Neptali Rodriguez St. Paul; Gretchen Roeck Minneapolis; Phil Rose St. Paul; Ramona Scarpace Minneapolis; Phillip Schaffner Minneapolis; Steve Schaitberger Brainerd; Carolyn Schmidt Grand Marais; Christine Seaton Fairmont; Paul Shaffer White Bear Lake; Coke Smith White Earth; Tom Sinning Alexandria; Georgianna Smith Sunfish Lake; Georgia Steele Fairmont; Betty Strong St. Paul; John Sullivan Austin; Bill Teska Minneapolis; Margaret Thor St. Paul; Michael Tippett Owatonna; Richard Todd White Bear Lake; Colleen Tully Marshall; Rena Turnham Minneapolis; Robert Two Bulls Minneapolis; Bill Van Oss Duluth; Barbara von Haaren Red Wing; Penelope Warren St. Louis Park; LeeAnne Watkins St. Paul; Jered Weber-Johnson St. Paul; Chip Whitacre Excelsior; Lisa White Smith Plymouth; Stephen Whitney-Wise St. Paul; James Wilson St. Paul; Letha Wilson-Barnard St. Paul; and Stephen Wlosinski Duluth



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