

Take Home Worship – Sunday Nov 15, 2020

By Rev. Julie Lebrun - Inlet United Church, Port Moody BC

I invite you to light a candle at home:

We light a light
In the name of the God who creates life,
In the name of the Saviour who loves life,
In the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.

(by Philip Newel)

Reflection

It's feels like it's been a tough week. Unrest in the USA and the relief of a new President elect comes with worries about the transition to new leadership. Remembrance Day services that could not be attended in person due to the pandemic. New restrictions on non-essential travel and more limitations on social contact. Concerns expressed by business leaders and teachers. Everyone agreeing we need to make changes to bring down the Covid numbers...but how it all affects people continues to be deeply felt.

On the other hand, this week, I was reminded by Pete deGroot the impact of Canadian military liberating Holland at the end of World War 2. He could remind me because he was there as a young boy. I was also reminded of the service of Veterans by Svend Hansen in his interview and story on City TV. At 97 years old, Svend continues to teach us history from his firsthand experience.

This week Pete and Svend remind me what it means to be part of a Community of Faith...to be part of community. We are all connected. The events of World War 2 that has led to the freedom we enjoy today are carried in the people we know and those that we don't. It is precious to be part of a community where we remember and know we are all linked together over time.

Sometimes, lately people can feel alone and even lose hope. But we are not alone. God knows us and loves us even if we can't understand what that means. **Psalm 139** speaks to this:

“O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,”
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as
light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I
know very well.”

I find a comfort in trusting I’m known and understood by God. Because this makes it
possible for me to be known and understood by others. I find it a comfort to look at the
flicker of a small candle and know it represents the light of the Spirit. The smallest of
light that overcomes darkness.

The last couple of weeks, our book study group has been reading and talking about
cultivating creativity and play and rest. We are reading the “Gifts of Imperfection...Your
Guide to a Wholehearted Life” by Brene Brown. It has been such a joy to engage in
these topics. We have reminisced about early memories of play and creativity. Games
like kick the can or playing alone on the farm with animals, making mud pies, playing
bank and cut outs from the Sears catalogue helped us laugh and remember the child
within us. Can you recall a childhood memory of playing...what did you do...who did
you play with? We realized we don’t need much to play and be creative. We talked
about reclaiming our own creativity and play as adults today.

Here's what Plato and author Roald Dahl say about play.

Plato: You discover more about a person in one hour of play than in a year of conversation.

Roald Dahl: A little nonsense now and then, is cherished by the wisest men.

The Ecclesiastes reading tell us of the seasons and there is a time for everything.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (NRSV)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

As we continue to live through this Pandemic, I'm learning the value of play, creativity and rest in order to stay well and hopeful. I'm learning as we adjust to this pandemic **there is time** for play, creativity, and rest. I allow time for these things in order to remember God has searched me and knows me...to remember that God is with me. Play and creativity and rest are the place we meet the Spirit and the Spirit meets us and says "Hey, I remember you!"

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

(Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction, page 76)

For the night followed by the day
for the idle winter ground
followed by the energy of spring
for the unfolding of the earth
followed by bursts of unfolding
thanks be to you, O God.

For rest and wakefulness
stillness and creativity
reflection and action
thanks be to you.

Let me know in my own soul and body
the rhythms of creativity that you have established.

Let me know in my family and friendships
the disciplines of withdrawal and the call to engagement.

Let me know for my world the cycles of renewal
given by you for healing and health
the pattern of the seasons
given by you for the birth of new life.

Amen.

Closing

Go in peace this week.
There is time for the news and for work.
There is time for play, creativity and rest.
Trust the Spirit of God is with you
In the darkness and in the light.
Go in peace....Amen.