

Scripture Readings and Sermon

February 2, 2020 by Rev. Mark Brechin

Sermon "*Waves of Grace*"

These are some of my favorite scripture readings and yet, in light of this last week, they have taken on new depth and meaning. It is a bit of a paradox that in the midst of such a devastating loss, so much love would be poured out. Wave upon wave of grace has washed upon my family. When the world expected me to be collapsing, I was being lift up and surrounded by peace. A wise person may say I was in shock but I know that it was God's grace. A grace that puts all human wisdom to shame and reveals the power of the cross to those who are drowning in pain. It is a grace that can take loss and transform it into a source of blessing.

When Jesus says "Blessed are those ...", I now think that he is not referring to the condition but that out of the condition blessings would be found. It is not blessed to mourn but during mourning, the blessings of comfort and grace can be experienced. This is what I witnessed this last week. I saw someone who was meek, humble, and a peacemaker honored by all she knew. Leighanne lived out Micah and at times felt under appreciated. The response at the funeral showed how much she was wrong. The meek truly do inherit the earth.

Like most denominations, we are asking ourselves "What is Church?" and how do we be better at being church. This week, you were Church! You were a means of grace to my family. You were the hands and feet of Christ. Your actions made the Beatitudes come alive and transformed a funeral into a Candlelight service of love. Through you, wave upon wave of grace covered us. Thank you for being Christ to us.