



Grain

“Part of the gate image is not only entrance in but exiting out...”
 –The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis

Field

1 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:1-10

Thoughts

Take a moment to think about the doors in your life. Which ones have been entryways to safe spaces or grace? Which ones have you exited nourished and prepared to engage with the world? Which doors have slammed in your face metaphorically or literally? Have you ever feared not having doors to open? What about doors to other dimensions?

Jesus said that he was the gate. Gate to what? We know he was speaking to the people who witnessed him heal a blind man, which was about helping that individual find abundant life with Christ. It was a message that there was more in life than vying for power or being complicit with floundering, abusive systems. But was there physicality of a place for which Jesus was the door?

Several years ago, I recall watching a PBS show called The Elegant Universe. The physicist, Brian Green explained the Theory of Everything, bringing together quantum physics and Einstein's theory of relativity. The universe may have more dimensions than meet the eye, Green claimed. I wanted to stay tuned in but knew that Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong was being interviewed on another channel. I switched stations, only to find Spong talking about resurrection as another dimension that Christ opened and that is present now. Flipping back and forth, I heard Green and Spong using similar language to discuss entryways to places not immediately brandished before our faces.

May the power of the resurrected Christ open doors in the cave of your heart and lead you back out into service in the ways you are called. Happy Monday!



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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy