

Monday Quotes



Grain

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble... Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46: 1 and 10

Field

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction....The chain reaction of evil - hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.” The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Submitted by Peter Bakken, Madison, WI

Thoughts

Be still: a radical concept in a world in which we are always pushing ahead, seeing our human worth linked to what we produce. Be still: words we begin to hear when we slow down and pray, reaching beneath the noise be it through silence, liturgy, song, acting in a way that makes just the right sense, or (you fill in the blank). Be still: words we can misuse to fall into quietism and escape from the world. Be still: a call to resistance as we act for justice within the world.

Psalm 46 is an anchor against a sense of chaos - nations are in an uproar and kingdoms are tottering, as the Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann says. Here, being still is about intentionality “that rejects the natural inclination to restlessness and anxiety.” We’ve had many contemporary discussions about how we can live as Christians in this divided society in which simply reading the news can keep us in a state of anxiousness, while many are on edge because of being targeted with increased micro-aggressions and blatant discrimination. We know that nonviolent resistance is an active, not passive, way to break the type of cycles the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. points out. However, resistance isn’t only external. We cannot always be free from fear and other effects of turmoil, and it would be unhealthy to live in denial of that, but we are invited by our God of grace to actively engage with another response to threats. God is our refuge. Be still; it is a form of resistance and reformation. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy