



Grain

“When the heart weeps for what it has lost, the Spirit laughs for what it has found.” Unknown Sufi

Field

26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning." John 15:26-27

Thoughts

How has the Spirit moved in your life and community recently? Through loss and disappointment? With unexpected joy? Who has taught you about the Spirit and testifying to truth? I think of a mentor who influenced me to return to my Christian path when I was in my 20's. What I learned from him continued beyond the time we were together. When he died years after the last time I saw him, I had the oddest experience of feeling deep sadness for my loss simultaneously with joy for what he taught me about the Spirit.

Jesus was never some guru of the world trying to get everyone to fix their gaze upon him as a human being. He disrupted the lives of individuals and communities, pointing them to freedom in God. People experienced love within the ordinary as Jesus engaged them, and then newness in the resurrection after his death. When Jesus left them in his physical form to grieve their loss, they would not be left alone. Still ahead: The Spirit would be with Christ's followers even when they would feel depleted facing overwhelming challenges; the wild uncontrollable wind of the Spirit would swirl through and around the people present during the festival of Pentecost; and there would be more pentecosts, which continue to invite us to be altered and testify to the truth.

Advocacy is one way to testify to the truth of God's love for us and our neighbor. Today, the Poor People's Campaign, a continuation of the dream and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his co-workers, will be in Wisconsin at the capitol at 2:00 p.m. We find hope in allies and movements. In the midst of concerns for our state and country, we hold on to positive stories, and I've heard some very hopeful ones recently. As people of faith, we also find strength and rest in the Spirit. May we be graced to know we are not alone as advocates; God sends the Advocate to guide and be with us. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly Recommended

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy