

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

God's love endures forever

- Pastor Hank French

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever...
who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever (Psalms 136:1, 4-9).*

The poet who wrote Psalm 136 looked at the created world and saw the creator's love, a love which—he or she declared—endures forever. The poet seems to believe—as do I—that deep down in the heart of things the universe is made and moved by love. The poet seems to assert—as do I—that love is the primal force, the creative energy, the arc of history. Which is to say, when our lives mirror the love of God, we are standing on the right side of history.

Echoing the Hebrew poet, the Sufi poet Rumi wrote:

I want that love that moved the mountains.
I want that love that split the ocean.
I want that love that made the winds tremble.
I want that love that roared like thunder.
I want that love that will raise the dead.
I want that love that lifts us to ecstasy.
I want that love that is the silence of eternity.

As Rumi knew and as the Hebrew poet knew, *we have that love!* It is freely given! All that is required of us is to see it, to accept it and begin to mirror it, that is, to love God in return and to love the world God made and loves. Of course, watch the evening news and it becomes sadly obvious that humankind has a way to go in learning to mirror the love of God.

The Catholic priest and scientist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, once wrote that, "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, [humanity] will have discovered fire."

Humankind has gone a long way toward "mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity." We are a proud, scientific, technologically minded race. But perhaps it's time to focus our collective attention on harnessing for God "the energies of love" before, in our pride, we destroy ourselves and the world God made and loves.

Prayer: Loving God, help us to see, accept and mirror that "love that lifts us to ecstasy" that we may be a part of the healing of the world. Amen.