

Friday, April 3

Seeing the Face of God

by Pastor Hank

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?
Psalm 42:2.

Actually, the psalmist's question can be answered in a word: anytime. You can behold the face of God anytime you look in the right place. The trouble is, we often look for God in the wrong places. We look for God in sacred rites and rituals and sacraments, in sacred texts and sacred songs, in towering cathedrals and in small rural, white clapboard churches.

To be sure, God *can* be found in all those places if—and it's a big if—we first find God where God spends most of the time. An old "rabbi story" gives us a clue as to where that is.

According to the story, a rabbi once told his students that: "In days gone by, there were people who saw the face of God."

The student's were surprised and asked: "Well, why don't people see the face of God anymore?"

The rabbi replied: "Because, nowadays no one stoops so low."

God, it seems, spends most of the time among the lowly—the poor, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, the addicted, those who've lost a job, fallen on hard times, gotten into trouble. God spends a lot of time with those who are suffering for whatever reason. To see the face of God is to become lowly like God becomes lowly, and to move among the lowly with compassion. That's why Jesus said that when we act out of compassion toward those who suffer, we do it to him (Matthew 25:40).

God, of course, is everywhere. If we "stoop down" low enough to discover God among the lowly, we won't have any trouble finding God wherever we look, whatever we do.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for making it so easy to find you. Help me now to look in the right places. Amen.