

Monday, March 30

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Pastor Hank

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15

By and large, people of Christian faith are usually pretty good at weeping with those who weep. It is not surprising that faith in Jesus the compassionate one often translates into kindness and caring for people in times of crisis or distress. It is happening right now. It is not surprising that faith in Jesus the healer often translates into concern and care and prayer for those who are sick and suffering. It is happening right now. It is no surprise that faith in the Jesus who included all people in the circle of God's love often translates into advocacy and action for those who have been pushed to the margins of society. That too is happening right now. A solid community is built on the tears of those who "weep with those who weep" and then walk with them through times of trouble—and there is, thankfully, a lot of that going on in this time of the virus.

But a solid community is also built on laughter and celebration. As important as weeping with those who weep is, we should not let the downsides of life blind us to the goodness of life. There is so much to celebrate, to be thankful for, to rejoice over. It is not surprising that faith in the Jesus who turned water into wine at a wedding is often translated into celebration and shared fun when good things happen to people we know. Occasions for celebration and congratulation happen all the time. People in love get married, babies are born, new jobs are landed, promotions are received, children graduate, anniversaries come around, and on and on. When people in a community "rejoice with those who rejoice," it's going to be good for the community. Even in this time of social distancing, if we are creative, we will find many reasons to rejoice and many ways to continue rejoicing with those who rejoice

Prayer: Compassionate God, when those around me are weeping or rejoicing, let me weep or rejoice with them. When I am weeping or rejoicing, may others weep or rejoice with me. Amen.