

Thursday, April 9

## **There Is Enough**

**Pastor Hank French**

*You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart (Psalm 104:14-15).*

Wine, oil and bread in this beautiful hymn to the goodness and abundance of God's creation are metaphors for all those things that make life good and safe and meaningful. In our world, they represent things like food and clean water, shelter and clothing, adequate health care, educational and vocational opportunities, safe communities—things needed and deserved by everyone.

Human life, if it is to have hope and happiness, purpose and meaning, depends upon such things. And, according to biblical faith, this beautiful blue-green planet that we live on was designed by its creator to be a place where there is enough of such things for everyone to have enough. Unfortunately, all too many people who call the earth home are dying for lack of wine, oil and bread simply because some have far more than enough.

We are all fragile, vulnerable beings and we need to look out for each other. As the 17<sup>th</sup> century English Poet John Donne so beautifully put it:

Any [person's] death diminishes me  
because I am involved in [humankind]....

To be a person of biblical faith is to be involved in humankind as one who loves; it is to have a passion for justice grounded in God's passion for justice. Compassion and mercy move us to prayer and action on behalf of those who hunger and thirst for wine, oil and bread.

My daughter always ends her e-mails with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "Live simply that others may simply live." It is a good reminder to think more carefully about the impact—for good or for ill—that our lifestyle choices and behaviors have on others.

Prayer: Loving God, may my gratitude for the goodness of this beautiful world you have given us translate into service on behalf of those who don't get a fair share of wine, oil and bread. Amen.