

Messiah Moravian Church

May 28, 2023

Sermon: God's Breaking In

By Rebecca Craver

Acts 2:1-21

John 20:1-23

Jesus shows up in the room with his friends, his disciples, on the evening of the first day of the week after his death and resurrection. It was a huge surprise and he begins by speaking Peace.

Why Peace?

- They were grieving
- They were confused
- They were scared
- They didn't know what to do next

So, Peace be with you...

- Even as they overflow with joy at his presence he says again, Peace be with you...

Consider the times in your own life when grief, confusion, fear and uncertainty dominated your mind and experience. Often we can't get our minds to slow down enough to take in new information or to consider any other option that was we are feeling right in the moment.

Finding peace, the active peace in the presence of the Spirit of God helps us to quiet ourselves and be able to listen anew.

To get beyond our fears.

In our house, there are days when things get loud and quickly grow to large arguments and even larger feelings...we have a practice that we try to work on of taking a deep breath, reminding our bodies and minds to be a peace, so that we can listen to each other.

I wonder if Jesus knew that the disciples wouldn't be able to hear him until they had allowed themselves to ****Breath**** and when they felt the Peace **then** Jesus told them what was happening.

They were being sent

- sent out to walk in the way Jesus had
- Sent out with a proclamation of great love
- Sent out to be the change
- Sent out to share Peace

It is no accident that Jesus' peace is a boon to community. The call of the Gospel of Jesus is not to individuals but to the community of believers.

God's love recognized and lived in community changes the world.

But we, like the twelve and many other disciples throughout the generations, can get stuck in our own fears that we won't be able to change that we stay locked up in the room.

In biblical commentary, Rev. Dr. Matt Skinner, reminds us that Pentecost is not a day when we remember with nostalgia a thing that happened long ago but a time to recall that the arrival of the Spirit but that God continues to break into the world with Peace that quells our fears and sends us out to embody the way of Jesus where and when we are.

This is not a just a lovely story to tell it is a story that we live.

This story changes us and the way we live.

The Peace of Christ gives us what we need to break out and break into the world that is promised with hope and energy.

It is no accident that when we gather we use the symbols of bread and wine to show us that God has been showing up and breaking in- and will continue to do that through us.

When we gather around this table or other like it

- In our homes
- In restaurants
- Under picnic shelters
- On the road

We remember that God's love is active in the world through us and it has changed us.

We can be a part of God's movement to heal the brokenness of the world. The message of God's love is a message that transcends language and will bring about the Reign of Christ.