THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A Sermon Delivered February 20th, 2022

Luke 6:27 “Love Your Enemies”

***Let Love Rule***

Jesus came to preach the Gospel. We all need Good News. The thing is: good news is not always Easy News. Today Jesus is telling us we need to love our Enemy.

Imagine that. Not just tolerate, put up with, avoid at all costs, but to Love our Enemy. Jesus is asking us to let love rule our emotions, thoughts, feelings and actions. Let love rule in all you do.

Easy to say. Hard to do. This is the Christian Life. This is the way of Faith.

Popular TV preachers can say: Here are Three Steps to a Better, Successful You.” It would not be popular to preach; Love Putin, Love Russia, Love the Taliban, Love ISIS. When we have actual enemies to our existence on earth, it is very hard to *feel* loving.

And that is the exact lesson the Holy Scriptures are trying to reveal to us. Love is not a feeling, it’s a way of existing. If our love for others was based entirely on personal feelings, then surely, they would fade.

Our capacity to love comes from an Amazing Grace that is much bigger than us. God loves us even as we do not fully love our neighbors. God’s grace continues to transform us though we have resisted for so long.

The work towards a prophetic justice, a Biblical mandate of righteousness is long. Do we have the patience of God? Do we have the persistence of the Lord? Do we have a deep enduring calling? Jesus tells us, “Love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return.”

The Lord is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked and so ought we. Be merciful just as the Lord of all Creation is merciful, generous, and kind. Our challenge and our comfort is this; God loves us as we are and loves us so much not to leave us here.

We have much more transformation to seek out and work towards and experience. Let love rule is both our Good News share and our Difficult News to take.

On March 25,1965 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed the crowds that had just come through the march from Selma to the state capitol building in Montgomery. People were confronted by resistance, hate and great bodily harm crossing over the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

He offered the illustration of a 75-year-old woman who was persistent in loving a broken world.

She had been walking not just that day, but on all those days they boycotted the buses. When asked if she was tired after all that walking her reply, “My feets is tired, but my soul is rested.”

God does not rest until justice is served. And justice cannot be served without great mercy. And great mercy requires an unlimited supply of God’s grace.

When waiting for justice and the right thing to happen, it is a holy wait, a holy work. Dr. King says to us in that speech after such a persistent march through such great resistance: There will be day not of a white person or a black person, but a day that a person is a person.

It’s good for us to remember that in the Civil Rights Movement the goal was to let love rule. Everybody is a somebody. A person is not a label or a category. A person is a person. A blessed child of God is a blessed child of God. And everyone deserves a seat on the bus.

Dr. King tells us, “How long will it take?”

How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.

How long? Not long, because you will reap what you sow.

How long? Not long. Because the arm of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

Oh, let us be swift to answer God’s call. Be jubilant, oh our weary feet. God is marching on.

The rainbow in the sky is a mystery revealed since the days of Noah and the Ark.

Yet it’s almost always a partial arc. We see the pinnacle yes in all its splendor and holy array. But do we see where it begins in the mud behind the mountains and the trees? Do we see where the rainbow ends over the horizon line obscured by human buildings?

The moral arc of the universe is long and high and inspires us to greatness. And it comes from the longing for mercy, and the march towards justice. Let love rule. For God is love. As we abide in love we abide in God.

And so, our prayer for today on our long march from Noah’s day to our own:

*May our feet never stop walking towards Roy G Biv.*

*Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet.*

*On God’s green earth, it’s all good, it’s all glorious, it’s all a sign of God’s great love for all.*

*Amen.*