

Seedlings 🌱 : "I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief..."



The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry (born 1934)

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*



**O Lord God, we see signs of summer's passing in
golden leaves, shortening days,
misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds
that chill, harvest bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot
and frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered,
storehouses filled, mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests through winter's
cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by spring's first touch.**

**Final Open Air Worship 2024
in the Church Gardens**



**this Sunday, October 6th
with the Blessing of Animals
in Commemoration of St. Francis of
Assisi**



*You are welcomed and encouraged to bring a beloved pet to worship on this day.
If you are not able to bring an animal, you may wish to bring a photo of an animal you love, a photo of an endangered species in the wild, or a photo of your deceased, beloved pet companion(s) to the service.
Animals must be on a lead or in a secure pet carrier for the safety of other animals.*



Bakery at coffee hour this Sunday by Weber's including hoska, strudels, pound cakes and more, and please be welcome to bring bakery to share!



**Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226
Friday, October 4th, 2024**

Early Life

Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182. He grew up leading a privileged life as the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. Francis loved to learn and sing songs as a boy. His father wanted him to become a businessman and taught him about French culture.

Going to Battle

About the age of nineteen Francis went to battle against the nearby town of Perugia and was captured and taken prisoner. He was held captive in a dungeon for a year before his father paid the ransom and he was set free.

Visions from God

Over the next few years Francis began to see visions from God that changed his life. The first vision was when he was sick with a high fever. At first he thought that God had

called him to fight in the Crusades; however, he had another vision that told him to help the sick. Finally, when praying in a church, Francis heard God tell him to "repair my church, which is falling in ruins." Francis gave all his money to the church which caused his father to become very angry with him. Francis then left his parent's home and took a vow of poverty.

The Franciscan Order

As Francis lived his life of poverty and preached to people about the life of Jesus, people began to follow him. By 1209, he had around 11 followers. He had one basic rule which was "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps". Francis was a devoted follower of the Roman Catholic Church. He and his followers traveled to Rome to get the approval for their religious order from the pope. At first the pope was reluctant because these men were dirty and poor. However, eventually he understood their vow of poverty and blessed the Order.

Other Orders

The Franciscan Order grew as others joined and made vows of poverty. When a woman named Clare of Assisi wanted to take similar vows, Francis helped her start the Order of the Poor Ladies (Order of Saint Clare). He also started another order (later called the Third Order of Saint Francis) that was for men and women who didn't take vows or leave their jobs but lived out the principles of the Franciscan Order in their daily lives.

Love for Nature

Francis was known for his love of nature and animals. There are many stories about Saint Francis and his

preaching to animals. It is said that one day he was talking to some birds when they began to sing together. Then they flew into the sky and formed the sign of a cross. It was also said that Francis could tame wild animals. One story tells of a vicious wolf in the town of Gubbio that was killing people and sheep. The people of the town were frightened and didn't know what to do. Francis went to the town to confront the wolf. At first the wolf growled at Francis and prepared to attack him. However, Francis made the sign of the cross and told the wolf not to hurt anyone else. The wolf then became tame and the town was safe.

Death

Francis became ill and spent the last few years of his life mostly blind. He died in 1226 while singing Psalm 141 and was declared a saint of the Church only two years after his death.

Interesting Facts about Saint Francis...

- October 4th is observed as Saint Francis feast day.
- It is said that he received the stigmata two years before he died. These were the wounds of Christ from the cross including his hands, feet, and side.
- Francis traveled to the Holy Lands during the Crusades hoping to conquer the Muslims with love rather than war.
- Francis set up the first known Nativity scene to celebrate Christmas in 1220.
- He believed that actions were the best example, telling his followers to "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."



If you do something good and talk about it, it doesn't count."

HERE WE GO AGAIN! JESUS IN MARK IS JUST **BRUTAL!**



WWW.AGN4SDAY.ORG

THE QUESTION OFFERS A TEACHABLE MOMENT. THERE'S **NO ROOM** FOR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD.



EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS TO OFFER IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE **NOTHING** TO OFFER GOD.



YEAH, BUT DOES HE HAVE TO GET **SO PERSONAL?**



MARK 10:2-16

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Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.



***Lord, give us weak eyes for things of little worth,
and eyes clear-sighted in all of your truth.***

*This prayer of 19th century Danish pastor, theologian
and philosopher Søren Kierkegaard
is quoted at the front of his book The Sickness Unto Death
which was published in 1849.*



Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the sanctuary.



Please note:
For urgent pastoral care and *important*
administrative matters,
please contact Pastor Dennis at his mobile phone
number.
The landline at the parsonage is no longer in
service.☎
If you need this contact information, please reply
to this message.

Photo credits: Daryle Lauritsen (colored corn and the Willow Creek), Jane Lauritsen (waterfowl on the DesPlaines in Riverside), and Eliot Pontius (lakefront tree and wildflowers).

***Please forward this e-newsletter
to others who may be interested!
And previous issues of
"Seedling" E-News are posted at the
website.***



***For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water...
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).***

Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.
For continuing live streaming of the
liturgy
please click [HERE](#).

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for
viewing at a later date.**



www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. -
Noon
