



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

August 6, 2023

"The Presence of the Lord"

And [Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:19-20, NIV)

Communion Sunday

It is Communion Sunday at Raquette Lake Chapel, and today's sermon is about communion. In confirmation/catechism/church membership classes we learned that Communion (Eucharist, Mass) is a sacrament. We probably memorized the definition of a sacrament, something like "A visible vehicle or vessel of the sacred" or "A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inner and invisible grace" (St. Augustine). Raquette Lake Chapel is non-denominational, and we come from different Christian backgrounds when we attend the Chapel. And we have different experiences with communion. While celebrated in group settings, celebrating The Last Supper is a deeply personal experience.

"Tell Us About What Communion Means to You"

Some years ago, in a small training group discussion for hospital chaplains, we were all asked a series of questions: "Did you go to church Sunday? Have you taken communion recently? What does communion mean to you?" This is a good set of questions for us all to mull over every so often, especially the last question.

The Presence of the Lord

I remember one person (not one of the chaplains), who did not attend church often, telling me they were scared while taking communion. Clearly they had a powerful experience, an encounter with the divine! Thinking back on that, I think that is the true meaning of "awe," and I wish all of us could experience that kind of awe more often! Trepidation, maybe fear, respect? This begs another question: do I feel the presence of Christ" when I celebrate Lord's Supper? Is that why I'm in awe?

"I Have Found a Way..."

Contemplating what happens at communion reminds me of a line from a popular song:

***I have finally found a place to live
In the presence of the Lord.***

In Psalm 139, one of our readings this week, we learn that God is everywhere in space and time, and that, even if we try, we cannot hide from God. We just need to recognize that fact...and learn to live in the presence of the Lord with all that it entails. Participating in the Lord's Supper is a good place to begin!

--God's Peace to you! Vance

Prayer box: let us pray for departed souls and their grieving family and friends; healing for Barb and Robin; for those struggling in their relationships; for those suffering from extreme weather; let us give thanks for all first responders; let us be grateful for the support from the Raquette Lake Community! Lord, hear our prayer!