



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

September 1, 2024

“Where is Jesus to be found? (Reclaiming Jesus)”

*“Don’t think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. You are the equipment.
No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple.” (Mark 6:1-13, The Message)*

A Favorite and important story in the New Testament is Mark 6:1-13. Jesus returns to his hometown and teaches in the synagogue, impressing many but also facing skepticism from those who knew him as a carpenter. Jesus then sends out his disciples in pairs. They preach, cast out demons, heal the sick, and spread the message with joy.



These days where can we find Jesus and the disciples spreading the message? I’m one of those many people who have been very troubled by the rancor and, frankly, hatred I am seeing within our country. Often this is tied to religion, which baffles me.

A manifesto called “Reclaiming Jesus” In May of 2018 a group of influential, non-political clergy from different Christian denominations gathered and declared “WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED for the soul of our nation, but also for our churches and the integrity of our faith. The present crisis calls us to go deeper—deeper into our relationship to God; [and] our relationships with each other...” And further:

- WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God’s image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). That image and likeness confers a divinely decreed dignity, worth, and God-given equality to all of us.
- WE BELIEVE we are one body. In Christ, there is to be no oppression based on race, gender, identity, or class (Galatians 3:28).
- WE BELIEVE how we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner is how we treat Christ himself. (Matthew 25: 31 -46)
- WE BELIEVE that truth is morally central to our personal and public lives. “You shall not bear false witness” (Exodus 20:16)
- WE BELIEVE that Christ’s way of leadership is servanthood. (Matthew 20:25-26).
- WE BELIEVE Jesus when he tells us to go into all nations making disciples (Matthew 28:18).

That’s where we will most reliably find Jesus today, outside of the hometown. Remember our questions: Where is Jesus to be found? Where do we encounter the Holy? Is it at church? Is it only at church? How do we reclaim Jesus? We are the equipment! Amen.

[note: this is the basis for the Chapel sermon on September 1 and the longer sermon notes will be posted on the Chapel website.]

Prayer Box: *pray for the soul of David and comfort for his grieving family; pray for healing and comfort for Margo and Bill, Justin and his family, Danielle, Debbie, John C, Joe, Holland, Steve, Gail, John H, Mia, Patti, Florence, and Dawn; pray for all those suffering from severe weather; pray for first responders; pray for an end to the divisiveness our country; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Sudan; pray for all those who travel; pray for children starting school.*

Lord, hear our prayers!