

October 2, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/Fourth of Creation/Proper 22

Meditation: Faith is a verb.

The scripture lesson today mentions having faith the size of a mustard seed, and that got me to thinking about faith. What exactly is faith? I found many different definitions, but I'd really like to know what you think. I'm going to ask you to take a couple of minutes to turn to someone near you in groups of two or three or four and share what you think of when you think of faith.

What did you come up with?

Faith: a set of beliefs; trust in something; loyalty to something; belief in something for which there is no proof; finding meaning in life; membership in a church; trust in relationship; a way of life; a process of becoming.

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, the impossible becomes possible. That speaks to me of action. When it says we can achieve something with faith it says to me that faith is not an object, a thing, like a "get out of jail free" card in Monopoly. Faith is not a creed or dogma. The apostle James says that faith without works is dead. Faith is not a noun, but a verb. Faith is active.

Likewise, God's faithfulness sounds more active than passive. In the beginning God created. Now God continues to hold Creation in existence as an act of faithfulness. Which is another way of saying that God has faith in Creation.

All of this speaks to me of faith being a way of life. We live our faith in every act, but we do not live it in isolation. We live our faith in relationship: in relationship with God; in relationship with Creation; in relationship with one another. God's faithfulness to the church is evident in the continuing spiritual nurture of the church. Here, at this table, and at tables around the world, God has fed us, body and soul, through the sacrament of communion. God is with us, in community, in the loaf and the cup, nurturing us that we might continue living our faith in this world.