

Carol's Reflection – June 6 2021

Have you heard of the idea of Double Daylight Savings?

I had not, but when I did, I was a bit intrigued. The idea of a Lighter Later Campaign comes from some people who suggest that there would be some parts of the world where not only is a benefit of extending the hour of Daylight saving in the spring by one hour, but that should be the time year round, and we should jump an additional hour from the time we know as our standard time – double daylight savings in the spring and summer.

So, at this time of year, in Winnipeg, the sun rises around 5:30 and sets around 9:30. With the idea of double daylight savings, the sun would rise around 6:30 a.m. and set around 10:30 p.m. The idea is that those hours would fit with many peoples' lives, and people would be able to connect with one another better. They reason that when the sun rises at 5:30 a.m. – or earlier -- the majority of people are not out and about, but in the evening, they suggest it would be safer as less accidents occur in daylight, there would be more time for work, and for recreation, and there would be more time for connecting with the community.

So whether we think that the Lighter Later idea has merit, or not, one thing is for certain, we need more time for connecting with the community.

That's the Gospel lesson for us today.

Jesus comes home. And there are so many people around him that he cannot even eat. His family has heard the people say that 'he has gone out of his mind'. His mother and brothers come to get him – presumably to protect him, and when he does not immediately go with them, we get his last words,

“Who are my mother and my brothers?”

And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”

“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

It is not so much a rejection of his birth family, as a claiming of his whole family – God's family.

And isn't that family that Jesus claims interesting? His followers are there, without a doubt, but so are the scribes who came down from Jerusalem, so are the people in the crowd who think that he has gone out of his mind.

Perhaps in that wide sweeping statement he is claiming the widest breadth of people possible and calling us all to recognize that we are kin with one another. We are all connected. “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” Whoever does the will of God – regardless of all the things that define people – whoever – is my kin.

And claiming each other as kin, reminds us that we are connected to one another in profound ways. As that is true, then what happens to one, happens to all.

That has never been so evident as it is in this pandemic. We know that a virus that starts in one place with people we have never met, has impacted those we do know and love. And, our actions, our decisions to follow the science, to wear our masks, to keep our distance, to get our vaccines, is not just for our own benefit, but because we are connected and we need to take care of one another.

And, the connection that we are kin with one another is why we here in Canada are so acutely aware of the lost lives in Residential Schools. It is why we are posting orange ribbons, and hearts. It is why there are nation-wide memorials with 215 little pairs of shoes – It is why we hold ourselves in grief knowing that there may be more discoveries like that in Kamloops.

It is why we have hung red dresses in the church sanctuary, in windows and in trees and all over as we try to wrap our minds around all the missing and murdered aboriginal women.

And, it is our connection with one another, our recognition that everyone is a beloved child of God that invites us to be people of hope, to light our rainbow candles this month, to wave our rainbow flags, and to say, with Pride, in Pride, that the circle is wide.

Jesus's family is our family. Jesus family contains us all. And here we are, in all our struggles and in all our missteps and in all our faith and in all our attempts at reconciliation, our strengths, our weaknesses, and in all.

California Bishop Yvette Flunder reminds us that Peter, Paul and all the Apostles wrote the Book of Acts with their lives. We must write the second book of Acts with our lives.

In the words of Blessed Assurance, This is our story, this is our song, praising our Saviour all the day long.

So let's connect with our community. Let's remember that we are all kin. Let the living out of our story, God's story, make the world a better, kinder, and more just place.

Thanks be to God. Amen.