

Carol's Reflection – Sept 26

There is a song – a Passover song that we in the Christian Church are learning and have learned from our Jewish brothers and sisters. It is a song to be sung during Holy Week – the week before Easter. It is in the Voices United hymnbook, If Our God had simply saved us... and it has a lot of verses:

Merely brought us out of Egypt, only opened up our prison, Dayeinu
If our God had split the Red Sea:
Made a way through walls of water,
Only opened up the waters: Dayeinu
If our God had given to us
Less than Ten Words as prescription,
Simply told us: "Take the tablets!" Dayeinu...

You get it, at verse 14:

If our God had fed us only:
Feasted us upon the mountain –
Not inviting all the neighbours: Dayeinu

Then – the end:

But, our God, who holds the banquet,
Calls the whole world into freedom:
Opens up the new creation:

Dayeinu!

Dayeinu is repeated again and again – and it translates, it would have been enough.

By repeating the stories of all the times that the people have experienced God's presence, there is a sense of how even the smallest signs of God's presence are enough.

Dayenu is being said and sung all over the world right now – but in a different way. Dayenu is the name of the Jewish Call to Climate Action – starting in the US but encompassing the globe.

Firstly, under the leadership of Rabbi Jennie Rossen, the translation of Dayenu is evolving – "We have had enough, but we also have enough. We have what we need to transform our world."

Rabbi Rossen's roots in social justice include work for equality for women, and safety for refugees. That work led her to deep care for the planet. The goal of Dayenu is to secure a just, livable and sustainable world for all people for generations to come by building a multigenerational movement that confront the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. They state:

'We are rooted in Jewish values, wisdom, and tradition. Grounded in Jewish history and

experience, we bring spirit, faith, and song to our work, engaging with both urgency and hope.

And

We seek to close the gap between the world as it is, and the world as it should be. We are committed to effective political, economic, and cultural change. The ultimate measure of success is the real impact we have on mitigating the climate crisis and building equitable solutions.'

There is the sense that we need to be present in the moment to see God's love all around us.

And, we need to live faithfulness in our care and respect for one another.

In the UK there is a lot of climate conversation right now. Climate activists are calling for the Government to make insulation for homes a priority. They are calling for action to protect people and the planet.

In Germany, today is one of the "Fridays for the Future" – a time of climate protests around reducing coal consumption, and making a real difference by curbing CO2 emissions.

And, the calls to Climate Action were key issues in the recent Federal election. We are constantly needing to ask – is what we are doing helping the health of our planet. How are we using water, how are we reducing, re-using, or recycling?

And it is crystal clear to the people of Dayenu, and the leaders of climate action in the UK and Germany, and the leaders of climate action here in Canada that what happens in this planet to one of us, has an impact on all of us. If that lesson was not clear before the pandemic, it certainly should be clear to us now!

And, --- that's the story of the scriptures today. We are all linked. We all matter to God.

In the Gospel of Mark again and again there are confused disciples who do not seem to get it. They do not seem to get the 'secret' that Jesus is the Messiah. They do not seem to 'get it' that God's love is not linear. There is not a way in which our actions can make God love us more. Yet Jesus is all about teaching the disciples – again and again. Suffering will come, death will come, and so will resurrection. And when they do not understand, and instead start fussing about who is the greatest, another lesson comes. They need to be servants. Just as Jesus has instructed them earlier in the Gospel to preach and heal, and to take nothing but a walking stick on their journey, they are told to be servants. They are to give up their focus on power in the world, or in heaven. They are to care for each other and for all.

Again and again, Jesus reminds the disciples, and us, that we cannot earn God's love – we cannot be the 'greatest disciples'. We cannot be the 'greatest disciples' because

there is no such thing.

God's love is a gift. God's love is for all. God's love is present in those moments of our successes and in the moments of our disappointments.

God calls us to justice and mercy. God calls us to love. God calls us to care for one another and for this fragile planet earth. Caring for the earth cannot wait. We need to act now.

Caring for each other cannot wait. We need to live reconciliation now.

Dayenu.