



Full to The Brim ~ An Expansive Lent

Tuesday Small Group Session

Second Week of Lent – Under God’s Wing

Gathering /Welcome – *Introduce yourself and share a question you have been pondering this week.*

Introduction/Background for *Full to the Brim* from Sanctified Art:

“The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith.

And so, our Lenten theme, Full to the Brim, is an invitation— into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It’s an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God’s lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

Full to the Brim reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.”

Sharing the Scripture

Luke 13: 31-35. **Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem**

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

³² He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’^[b]”

Footnotes [b] Psalm 118:26

Commentary on the Scripture from the *Full to the Brim* devotional



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While we were in seminary, one of my good friends adopted a dog who, on her best days, could be described as “hectic.” She was (and often still is) a wild tornado of a dog who, although adorable, often got herself into worlds of trouble. There were many complaints of never-ending barking, ... and there are more than a few stories of injuries caused by this poor pooch. Just recalling the tales is exhausting!

And yet, my friend loves her dog with a kindness and patience that I don't think I've ever seen before. She shows kindness and mercy, even when the dog exhausts her. She signs up for training after training, hoping that she and her dog will both learn some skills to help them manage better. She buys toys and treats and equipment so that her dog always knows how much she loves her and has the best chance for success in the world. She is fiercely loving and protecting, showing a warmth and understanding that the world often doesn't toward her pet. Even when her dog pushes her to her limit, she's still her dog, and her love never ends.

With this in mind, it's not hard to understand Jesus' sentiment in Luke 13. Jerusalem has not always treated Jesus particularly well, and yet it is clear that he still loves it so very deeply. All he wants is to protect it, like a mother hen protects her brood. Jerusalem's actions can't and don't change that, for that is what true, unconditional love actually looks like. We can be frustrating, we can be challenging, we can be difficult. We might even, intentionally or unintentionally, try to push God away. Yet God will remain with us, still loving us because God's love never ends.

Know that you are loved, no matter what you do.

Discuss

This is one of a handful of times scripture uses feminine, specifically maternal, imagery in connection to God: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...” (Luke 13:34b) When has God felt like a mother to you? Do you feel loved by God, no matter what you do?

As we consider the destruction we continue to visit upon each other and all of creation, and “our house is left to us desolate” I imagine God is still grieved. What emotions arise within you when you consider this message and current events – the world’s response to the war in Ukraine? the climate crisis? racial inequity?

Can you think of some tangible steps you/we can take this week to shift to a “resurrection” mindset or access some Holy Spirit energy?

Closing Poem -

Come Rain or Shine

“I will keep on.”
That’s what I heard him say.
I will keep on
driving out demons
and healing people,
speaking the truth
and loving endlessly,
searching for the lost sheep
and crying for the brokenhearted,
feeding the hungry
and welcoming the outcast.
“I will keep on.”

That’s what he said, right
after he said my name, right
after he called me beloved, right
after he welcomed me home
and saved me a seat.
And I knew,
there was no stopping him.
I was under his wing.
Come rain or come shine,
today and tomorrow,
this love keeps on.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed