

Jammin' with the Wisdom of Jesus

Some Notes for the Reflection on Aug 30, 2017



During this week of hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires, the words in the last verse of Nancy's last song are striking:

*Bless the beasts and the children
Give them shelter from the storm
Keep them safe, keep them warm.*

Natural disasters are becoming for frequent and more devastating. I don't claim to understand all the complexities that cause this, but I have no doubt that human abuse of our environment is a significant factor.

God blesses the beasts and the children through us, the human beings that were created to care for the creation in companionship with God and with each other.

This happens when we heed the Great Requirement offered to us in these words from the prophet Micah:

*He has told you, O Mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Ena Van Zoren is a former student of mine at VST. She's retired now, but serving Centennial Presbyterian Church in Calgary.

She posted a meme today on Facebook that contained a quote from Mr Rogers, himself a Presbyterian minister who chose to exercise his ministry through children's television.

Here are the words of wisdom he shared.

I pray they become a bit of an earworm for you this evening:

*When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news,
My mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers.
You will always find people who are helping."*

I pray this evening inspires you to be a helper in blessing the beasts, and the children, and the whole of this beautiful creation.

The Brentwood Manifesto of the Christian Faith

How We See God, the World, Humanity, and the Future

*In the beginning, God created the world
and delighted in its diversity and development.
God created human beings
and nourished them to flourish in blessing all of creation.*

*But humanity rebelled, rejecting the limits of their power.
Their rebellion against God's vision of justice, peace, and joy
brought tyranny, suffering, and death.*

*God never tired of calling humanity home
to work in common to cultivate the well-being of the world.
Through the law and the prophets,
God's Spirit invited love of God, love of others, and love of self
as the empowering energy for engaging in this mission.*

*In a unique and decisive act of reconciliation and revelation,
God overcame our alienation and loneliness.
God took flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.*

*In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ,
the creation is restored to its original purpose.
God continues to craft the completion of this redemption.*

*Through the church universal, visible and invisible,
the Holy Spirit empowers people
to participate consciously in their reconciliation
through worship, learning, fellowship, and service.*

*By God's grace in Jesus Christ through the work of the Spirit,
we know what it is to be loved and to love
amidst all the problems of the world.
We are equipped and sent to sow seeds of God's SHALOM
in all of our circles of influence.*

*In the end, God's love, healing, and forgiveness
will transform heaven and earth
and bring justice, peace, and joy to full realization.*