

103rd Annual Reunion Service, Central Mine Methodist Church – July 26, 2009

Minister: Rev. Dr. Daniel Rosemergy

***Introit** Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place (Lanny Wolfe)

Greetings & Announcements: Glenna Slatterley Irwin

A Moment of Remembrance and Thanksgiving: Frederick W. Bryant, Jr., 1922-2008
Sharon Strieter, 1941-2007

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

9 a.m. Service Order of Baptism for Larsen Joan Wake

11 a.m. Service A Time with Children/Youth [Cornish cooking, cookies, and songs]

***Anthem:** Sing Out, Children of God (Martin/Barrett)

Responsive Reading: Twenty-Third Sunday – First Reading “The New Covenant”

Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Diadem)

Scripture Readings: Matthew 4:18-23; 7:24-27

Special Music: Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed
Donna Koskiniemi, Valerie Koskiniemi, Pete Manderfield, Dan Rosemergy

Pastoral Prayer

Offering and *Offertory Anthem: Joy in the Morning (Sleeth)

Doxology

Sermon: This Is the Day! (Abridged)

Last year as I left our Central Mine Reunion, I carried with me amazement at how hard and busy the lives of the early settlers were, all they had to do each day to realize their hopes and dreams. They had *seized the opportunity for a new life*. They worked hard to make it happen. They created community and a church. They were sustained in their faith. And I carried away your stories—news of your families, joys and griefs, renewed commitments, and so much more. I hold you in my prayers.

All this led to a new urgency within me to live each day fully. I felt a renewed commitment to take advantage of each day and its opportunities. *Life is fragile*. I happened upon several articles and stories on the theme of *carpe diem—seize the day*. In a scene from *The Dead Poets Society*, Professor Keating challenges his students: “Carpe! Carpe diem! Seize the day, boys. . . . Choose to live in such a way that reflects the extraordinariness of your life.” Each new day offers opportunities to get “caught up in the great drama.” That is what our faith is all about: Jesus’ life and teachings—“I have come that you might have life . . . life more abundantly.”

An article about Dick LeBeau (Defensive Coordinator, Pittsburgh Steelers) relates that his daily morning meeting greeting is, “Good morning, men. It’s a great day to be alive!” How do you start your day? It says a great deal about how you live that day. One of my favorite hymns is “This Is the Day”—so let’s sing it

together: "This is the day, this is the day, that our God has made, that our God has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. . . ." The words are from Psalm 118:24. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote, "All the windows of my heart / I open to the day." Do you open all the windows of your heart each day? Do you rejoice in each new day? Do you seize all the possibilities of the day?

Kairos—God's Time. The ancient Greeks had two words for time, *chronos* and *Kairos*. *Chronos* refers to chronological or sequential time measured by clocks and calendars. It is orderly, rhythmic, predictable. It is what we think of as time. *Kairos* time has a more nebulous meaning. It refers to an "in between time," an undetermined period of time in which something special happens. In religious terms, it refers to "God's time," a time not measured by the clock, where God has chosen the "right moment" or the "opportune" time. It usually interrupts the normal flow of time, e.g., "I lost track of time," "I was in the moment," "time stood still." It can be a transitional, transformative time, a time when you are moved by emotion, love, insight, feeling drawn to the sacred, to deeper meaning. James W. Moore writes, "*Kairos* time is *full* time, *vital* time, *crucial* time, *decisive* time. . . those rich special moments that break into the humdrum and change your life; those powerful dramatic moments when things seem to fall into place; a new perspective comes, and God seems to be speaking loud and clear. That is *Kairos*!" (*Seizing the Moments: Make the Most of Life's Opportunities*, p. 16).

Seizing Kairos Time. Although we most often are driven by *chronos* time, I urge us to be open to the extraordinary moment, to recognize *Kairos* opportunities—seize them, make time for them. Too often we allow the demands of our day to get in the way of special moments and possibilities. To read and reflect on Jesus' life, the way he lived each day, is to realize how open he was to *Kairos* moments.

A Day in the Life of Jesus. Only one passage in the Gospels comes close to depicting a full day in Jesus' life, Mark 1:16-39. In this day, Jesus calls his disciples and they travel to Capernaum. Jesus enters the synagogue, he teaches, he heals. He spends the evening with friends and was open to those who came to be healed. A busy day, certainly, but to look at all the recorded stories about Jesus is to realize that each day brought similar and new opportunities for ministry and spreading the good news—stilling the storm, charge to apostles, telling parables, feeding the 4,000, teaching, healing, anointing, sharing Jewish festivals, cleansing the temple, encountering people and spending time with them, washing the disciples' feet, attending weddings and dinner parties. Even all this does not capture Jesus and the way he lived and spent each day as part of a small village, a Jewish community of families, of being part of the dawn to dusk routines of living.

In *Holy Play*, author Kirk Byron Jones marvels at how in touch Jesus was with *Kairos* moments (creative play) and the ways he loved to be with people—wedding feasts, walks by the sea, grand picnics, talking with men in trees and women by wells, enjoying children around him. Jones suggests that all this is part of Jesus' ongoing discernment of his vocation and ministry, of living into God's yearning for him. "His parabolic method of teaching ingeniously meshed profundity with the stuff of everyday life." This is another way of saying that Jesus was always open to the moments that changed *chronos* time into *Kairos* time—to moments that put him in touch with the sacred, the divine in each of us. Openness to such moments infuses the Gospels with love—our love for God and one another. These are moments that transform lives.

A Day in the Life of Central Mine Miners and Families. Imagine a day in the life of a miner here at Central. It was long, hard work, with 10-hour shifts (day and night). Alfred Nichols [*More Copper Country Tales*] writes of breakfast at the boarding houses at 5 a.m. with labor starting at 6 a.m. (some mine shafts at 7 a.m.). There was a 2-hour break after the day shift, with the night shift starting at 6 or 7 p.m. and running for 10 hours. Workers would be on "days" one week and "nights" the next week. All workdays/nights

started at the dry, where miners changed into miners' garb—coarse coats and pants, hobnailed boots, a resin-impregnated felt hat that protected his head. A lump of clay held one candle to the front of the helmet. A miner carried a tin lunch bucket (usually with pasty inside) as he left the dry and walked 50 yards to the man-engine shaft. He stood in line waiting to go down into the mine. In the mine were hours of grueling work, blasting, hand drilling, swinging a sledge. There were periodic rest times and a break for a meal. Then they brought rock to the surface, loading, transporting, sorting, breaking, and processing the copper rock. And the women's work was also never ending: keeping the house, preparing meals, raising children, sewing, mending, tending the garden, cutting and carrying wood and water.

A tiredness set in at end of day, but amazingly, these miners and their families created true community. Nichols writes that their lives revolved around the mines, homes, and church, which was the center for community activity. At the church—Wed. and Sat evening prayer meetings, choir rehearsals, programs for youth. On Sundays, 9 a.m. class, 10:30 a.m. Morning Service, 2:30 p.m. Sunday School, 6 p.m. Evening Service. Then there was planning for July 4th, Christmas, the Calumet Grand Tournament. There was practice for the Central Cornish Brass Band and numerous competitions—wrestling, hammer and drill contests, and more. I believe that in the mines and in community life, there were Kairos moments.

Kairos Moments Today. We are called to rejoice in each new day, to seize the myriad possibilities that each day offers (as we are able given all our life/family responsibilities), and to be open to Kairos moments in the ordinary. We need to hear the call. Our scripture passages reflect that call. The first is Jesus' call to Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of women and men" (Matthew 4:18-23). Jesus continues to call and invite each of us to a new life "born of the spirit." We can be transformed as we come to realize the vision. Jesus' life and teachings were about *abundant life*. He preached the Word but more importantly he preached by example: love, compassion, justice, breaking down barriers, building inclusive communities, making peace. We are called to be in touch with God, with the sacred.

In Matthew 7:24-29, Jesus' call is not only to hear the Word but to do. To listen and to do as Jesus teaches is to build a house upon a rock, but to hear and not to do is to build a house upon sand. It matters. Are we building our lives on firm foundations? Are we using our days to create lives that live into God's yearnings? What does this all mean for us today? Let me suggest a few things.

Realize that life is precious. Be aware of the treasure in each moment. *Do something each day for yourself, to enhance your connectedness to the sacred.* It might be creating some quiet time. Develop affirmations about yourself and your relationships in the world. In each chocolate Dove Promise is a message. You may think that having Dove Promise messages in a sermon is an act of desperation for a preacher—not so, it is an act of inspiration—instant moments of chocolate delight and enjoyment of the day. [Dove Promises were given to all in the congregation.] Enjoy life and its everyday gifts. Make every moment count. Make the most of every day. Share stories, memories. Embrace your life. *Live life to the fullest.* Add something new to your life. Change the world. Listen for your song—sing it, play it for the world.

I close with responses from "A Litany: God's Call to Life": "God calls us into life. How we live is our response to God . . . God calls each of us to move among the creations of this world and bring joy and renewing love. God calls us to this day."

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be

Benediction

Response: God Be With You Til We Meet Again

Organist: Father Corbin Eddy

Choir Director: Glenna Slatterley Irwin

***Choir Members:** *Sopranos:* Carole Bard, Joanne Bollinger, Tacy Flint, Donna Koskiniemi, Valerie Koskiniemi

Altos: Connie Martin, Deanna Martin, Marcia Mason, Carolyn Meyer, Lani Poynter

Tenors: Peter Manderfield, Stanley Martin, Ramsey Meyer, Larry Molloy, Gerald Rowe

Basses: James Irwin, Gary Koskiniemi, Jay Martin, Graham Meyer, Jack Porritt

Page Turner: Debbie Manderfield

Board of Directors: James R. Brooks, Gary A. Bryant (*Vice Pres.*), John T. Bryant, Lynn C. Bryant, James K. Curto, Jeffrey Nicholls Curto, Glenna Slatterley Irwin, Lawrence J. Malloy, Donald M. Ross*, David H. Thomas (*Sec./Treas.*), Dr. Brian D. Wake (*Pres.*), Dr. Joan P. Wake, Laura Wake Wiesner

**Emeritus Status*