

DIALOGUE SERMON WITH SUSAN GORE

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Why are you here?

- It appeared to me that I was wanted. One of the few times in my life that I didn't go seeking for a position. Indeed, it may be the only time. So, I thought I better pay attention.
- A position that did not require me to fix a "church". I had reputation for making inroads in doing that...Lake Tahoe and Dublin/San Ramon.
- Allows me to focus on those things that feel truest to my calling....seeing a person's hurt and responding to that hurt in hope and faith that it could be transformed in to meaningful action, to learn from it rather than push it away. "Hardship is the pathway to peace." Being here gives me permission to be a pastor...definition of pastor is....
- Allows me to preach....like a teacher who when teaching becomes the student so that they can teach what they've learned. It is in preaching, and what I go through to do it, that I increase and grow in my own spiritual development. We extroverts are like that. It forces me to stretch my spirit, my understanding of spirit, and what I am called to do. That is something that I see we not only do alone but in community, what we do with each other when we are together. And we are together today though virtually.
 - You are a community that does not need convincing in seeing our place in life, in this world, as looking to the welfare, to the well-being, of others. My perception is that you get it in understanding that justice for the least among us, is how Divine Spirit is lived within and through us.
 - My job behind the pulpit, as I have come to know it,
 - is to say how things are, to name the realities we face
 - how they might be transformed, the promise the lies before us
 - how we can make that promise real through our faithfulness to Divine Spirit that calls us to action, our marching order in a way.
- Want to do things differently
 - Have more fun – Ikibana with Ann Myers
 - Worry less.
 - Be better steward of my time

What worries you these days?

- Trump reelected
- Carl: Hasn't heard a single negative comment about me.
- Of being pulled into UU polity controversies....why I would not, or continue, to accept this position as you Pulpit and Pastoral Care Minister without a transitional minister coming on board and with whom I was confident we could work well together for the welfare of this congregation.

Where do you do hope?