

Jeff's Jottings

Do you hear what I hear?

May 24, 2018

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For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1,7

Does it seem to you like it does to me, that these days, everybody's talking? Or maybe it's not everybody, but some subset of people who are talking all the time?

To be sure: our faith compels us to speak to issues of grace, mercy, humanity, and justice. Our moral standing as the church in the world comes through the clarity of the voice given us by the Spirit at Pentecost and a compelling vision to use it, in defending and supporting all God's children in all their challenges and opportunities.

But that only works, it seems to me, if we in fact allow the Spirit its place in our lives, continually transforming and shaping us to God's will and way. And if all we're doing is talking, that gets lost. So on this Memorial Day weekend, barring emergency, I intend to focus on intentionally making space to hear those voices that often get lost in the cacophony of noise around us. By paying attention to facts and to novel or disconfirming data. By switching off my inner voice of judgment and holding space for something new inside of me to be born.

By setting aside my own big talk in order to hear the world through someone else's experience.

What better time than Memorial Day weekend to listen ... to remember ... to actively seek our own transformation. Come Holy Spirit.