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Epiphany 8

Reflection: Lead Into Lent: Let Life Happen

Matthew 6:24-34

Rev Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ *Mathew 6:24-34*

“No one can serve two superiors; you will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued or trusted in more than YHWH].

“Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy, anxious, and worried about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky; they don't sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, and yet our God in heaven feeds them. Aren't you more important than they? And can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and thrown on the fire tomorrow, won't God do much more for you — you of little faith?

Stop worrying then over questions such as ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ Those without faith are always running after these things. God knows everything you need. Seek first the dominion of God, and God's justice, and all these things will be given to you as well. Enough of worrying about tomorrow! Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Eve Ensler*

Why are we suddenly a nation and a people who strive for security above all else? In fact, security is essentially elusive, impossible. We all die. We all get sick. We all get old. People leave us. People surprise us. People change us. Nothing is secure. And this is the good news. But only if you are not seeking security as the point of your life. Here's what happens when security becomes the center of your life. You can't travel very far or venture too far outside a certain circle. You can't allow too many conflicting ideas into your mind at one time as they might confuse you or challenge you. You can't open yourself to new experiences, new people, and new ways of doing things. They might take you off course. You cling desperately to your identity... Real security cannot be bought or arranged or accomplished with bombs or with money. It is deeper. It is a process. It is the acute awareness that we are all utterly interdependent and that one action by one being in one town has consequences everywhere. Real security is the ability to tolerate mystery, complexity, ambiguity — indeed hungering for these things.