

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

March 3, 2021

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

HANDIWORK. "Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming God's handiwork. One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known." Psalm 19:1-2. In the midst of our Lenten journey, Sundays, representing the Lord's Day of Resurrection, offer a reminder that life may be fragile, sinful and painful, but there is always God's promise that life has meaning and purpose. The psalmist describes that all around us is evidence of the Mighty Acts of God.

I am a fan of the original television series *Perry Mason*, which shows my age since the series was shown 1957-1966. (New HBO series began in 2020.) Mason is a defense attorney, except for one case, won acquittal for his clients. It is fascinating watching Mason weave a defense that befuddles the district attorney every time but one. Over the D.A.'s many objections, Mason succeeds in catching the killer and surprises us all by who the killer is. His *HANDIWORK* is masterful and carefully crafted.

There is so much doom and gloom these days as we deal with isolation, fear and mistrust. We need the skill of Lawyer Mason to sort out what's behind all the violence, hatreds and contempt/insults thrown at disagreeing individuals or groups. Early nineteenth century Scottish author, Sir Walter Scott wrote, *"What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!"* Deception is self-centered, selfish and self-directed, not truthful and adds to today's doom and gloom societal destruction.

There is a contrast to all of this. The Psalmist describes God's *HANDIWORK* is *"declared"* or announced or known in and through the creation. God's *HANDIWORK* is not hidden or kept from us. It is a gift, a blessing. Even in the midst of the most devastating of circumstances, God's creative genius *"one day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known."* It is a continuum that never ceases time and time again and again. Even though Lent is often depicted as a somber season, we can, like the sky, proclaim God's *HANDIWORK*. There is hope for peace and justice; there is healing of the nations and our lives; there is love that overcomes revulsion; there is forgiveness out of failure; there is extravagant welcome out of rejection. God forms each one of us and we are God's *HANDIWORK*. God is our defense. Explore the gift of being God's *HANDIWORK* and give God the glory. Remember, God does not create junk. Alleluia!!! *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.