Rev's Reflections

The Tears of a Clown

On Sunday, during the service about jesters, clowns and fools and their role in public life, I'd been thinking that every time I've done a service on this particular topic, it's been kind of downbeat. Introspective. Even sad. For a moment, I wondered why. Then — almost magically — on the radio came an old pop song from the 80's called "Something About You," by Level 42.



And suddenly it became clear.

You see, I remembered the video that played on MTV, featuring a jester character with creepy lipstick and loud checkered suit. He appeared in challenging moments of other people's lives, bearing witness to their pain.

Clowns are sad. Which should not have come as a surprise. In art, music, and literature, the jester/clown/fool is often portrayed as sad or lonely. There's the old Smokey Robinson song "Tears of a Clown," and those ubiquitous paintings of clowns crying. Even Stańczyk, the most famous court jester of all time, was always portrayed looking lonely and beaten down.

It's hard work gently pointing out the hypocrisy in our world, challenging others to see the contradictions and even folly in their actions. Because, as we all know, "when you point your finger at someone else, there are three more fingers pointing back at you."

No wonder those services about folly aren't as fun as they should seem.

In Peace,
Rev Denis