



July 4, 2021

Interdependence Day or Grace vs Judgment

**Rev. Emma Chattin
Preaching**

First Reading ~ *Genesis 9:20-23*

Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and he lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backwards and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Anne Lamott*

Grace is spiritual WD-40. The mystery of grace is that God loves Vladimir Putin and me exactly as much as God loves your new grandchild. Go figure.

The movement of grace is what changes us, heals us and heals our world. To summon grace, say, "Help," and then buckle up. Grace finds you exactly where you are, but it doesn't leave you where it found you. And grace won't look like Casper the Friendly Ghost, regrettably. But the phone will ring or the mail will come and then against all odds, you'll get your sense of humor about yourself back. You will laugh again. Laughter really is carbonated holiness. It helps us breathe again and again, and gives us back to ourselves, and this gives us faith in life and in each other.

And remember -- grace always bats last.