

October 10, 2021

Mystics, Poets, Prophets, and Saints A Better Place

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How welcome upon the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good news-
who announces peace,
and brings good tidings of wonderful things,
and proclaims deliverance,
saying to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry,
together they shout for joy-
for they see with their own eyes
YHWH's restoration of Zion!
Break out in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For YHWH comforts the people,
and redeems Jerusalem.
YHWH bares a holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.

Second Reading

~ adapted from Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins, Senior Minister, Sunshine Cathedral

On Oct. 6, 1968, Troy D. Perry, a young, gay, defrocked Pentecostal minister, held a worship service in his living room. 12 people showed up. The coffee table became the communion table/altar. An album of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir provided the service music. Gay and straight, male and female, Christian and Jew were some of the labels of the people in the room. More than 9 months before Stonewall, this worship experience meant to welcome and affirm and celebrate LGBTQ people (known by various terms over the years) began a religious movement known as Metropolitan Community Churches.

Whatever becomes of MCC, the world will always be better because Troy Perry started a movement that said the LGBTQ members of the human family were part of the divine diversity of creation, and were fully embraced and loved by God; and that movement helped change hearts and minds and bring hope and healing to countless lives.

MCC blessed our unions, performed our funerals, visited us in hospitals, debated the fundamentalists, spoke to city councils and state legislatures, and prepared and ordained ministers for ministry. 53 years ago, a prophet was raised up, and spoke the word of God's all-inclusive and unconditional love, and the Church and the world would never be the same again.