

**July 25, 2021**

**Rev. Lori McPherson  
Preaching**

**First Reading ~** *2 Kings 2:23-24*

From there Elisha went to Bethel. As he walked along the road, some youths came out from the town and jeered at him.

"Go away, baldy! Go away, baldy!"

He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of YHWH.

Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

And Elisha went on to Mount Carmel and from there returned to Samaria.

**Second Reading ~** *from Michael Casey in "Strangers to the City"*

Unity cannot be built by avoidance. Differences need to be positively reconciled. For this to happen there must exist relationships of sufficient depth to mine the deep zones where unity already exists.

This is not achieved easily, but there is no other way.