



Summer Sermon Series ~ Stories From The Road

Keep Going

July 24, 2022

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, "Rabbi, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say, 'Abba God, hallowed be your Name! May your dominion come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins for we too forgive everyone who sins against us; and don't bring us to the time of trial.'"

Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, 'Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.' Then your neighbor says, 'Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I can't get up to look after your needs.' I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you the bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need. That's why I tell you, keep asking and you'll receive; keep looking and you will find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whosoever asks, receives; whosoever seeks, finds; whosoever knocks, is admitted."

"What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? You are flawed in so many ways, yet in spite of your faults, you know how to give your children good things. How much more will our Heavenly Parent give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

Second Reading ~ from Rainer Maria Rilke in "Book of Hours: Love Poems to God"

God speaks to each of us while making us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

"You, sent out beyond your recall, go to the limits of your longing.

Embody me.

Flare up like flame

and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.

Just keep going. No feeling is final.

Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the place they call life.

You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.