

Harvest Thanksgiving 2018

St. Andrew's Kelowna

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We seldom notice how each day is a holy place
Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens,
Transforming our broken fragments
Into an eternal continuity that keeps us.

Somewhere in us a dignity presides
That is more gracious than the smallness
That fuels us with fear and force,
A dignity that trusts the form a day takes.

So at the end of this day, we give thanks
For being betrothed to the unknown
And for the secret work
Through which the mind of the day
And wisdom of the soul become one.
-John O'Donohue

We seldom notice the eucharist of the ordinary. This morning our Gospel reading is trying to draw us into the eucharist of the ordinary and away from that smallness that fuels us with fear and force and worry. Look at the flowers of the field, look at the birds of the air, look at all the things God has made and cares for, look at the God who is known through these beautiful, exquisite things. This God loves you more than you can fathom and will care for you even more than the flowers and birds. It is this God who will draw together our fractured pieces not the incessant desire-filled worry for clothing and food and things, not the worry that makes our perspectives, our lives, our hopes and our loves small. It's seeking to live how God desires that will widen our sight, our hope, our love and keep all these other things in perspective so that they can be received simply, radically, with gratitude. Seeking first God's kingdom reveals the gracious dignity that can and will preside within us. The gracious dignity that will allow us to, as St. Francis said, bring love where there is hatred, pardon when there is injury, to seek more to console than be consoled, to understand than be understood, to bring faith where there is doubt.

And so each Sunday, we gather together and we ask the Holy Spirit to preside over the Eucharist. We gather the wheat and grapes, make the bread and wine, offer the simple, beautiful ordinary things and we ask that the eucharist of the ordinary become extraordinary by God's grace. We ask Christ to receive our gratitude whether it is full or weary and transform what we offer so that we may receive the very life of Christ through bread and wine, so that the same Spirit who presides here presides within us, so that we see in the breaking of bread Christ making whole our own fracturing. St. Augustine used to hold up the consecrated bread and wine and say: 'behold what you are; become what you see.' On this thanksgiving may we behold what we are, become what see and therein know the eucharist of the ordinary.

Amen.