

Scriptures: SUNDAY MAY 12, 2019

SERMON: LIVE IN CHARITY

SCRIPTURES: Acts 9:36-43 • Psalm 23 • Revelation 7:9-17 • John 10:22-30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER , MANOR ROAD UNITED

1.

“We are the Voice invitation”

I recall many years ago, I voiced the words to my mother, “I am planting flowers on mothers day” that same day, my brother Tony voiced the words, “ I am weeding on mothers day.” My brother weeded half the flowers I had planted. The next page of the story is a teachable moment where I helped my brother to discern the difference between a desired plant and a weed.

In life we bring our voice to proclaim and ask questions at every turn.

Today in the text we hear the voice of Peter. “Tabitha Get Up “ .

Suddenly the topic in Acts shifts from the conversion of Paul to Peter's miraculous raising of Tabitha.

Tabitha had died, in our own lives, suddenly we meet death.

The poet DJ writes

I told a million lies now it's time to tell a single truth

Sometimes I cry, It's hard dealing with my pride

Not knowing whether to fight or flee. Sometimes I cry. Hard to maintain this image of a tough guy

When deep down inside I am terrified

If I ever told you I wasn't scared I lied

Struggling to make it back

To society and my family

I cry

I cry for my anger and rage

The only emotions I can show in this place

I cry for how we treat each other inside this world

I cry for the lack of unity we have most of all

When will it end I want to know

Till then all I can do is let these tears flow

And find the words of Peter Crashing into the moment

We hear the voice of Peter, “Tabitha Get up.”

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Tabitha is a Hebrew baby name. In Hebrew the meaning of the name. Tabitha is: Beauty, grace. From the Aramaic word for Gazelle.

“Tabitha Get Up “

Suddenly the topic in Acts shifts from the conversion of Paul to Peter's miraculous raising of Tabitha.

“Tabitha Get Up”

We find it hard to get up and listen to the words of the republic to the south in good times and hard times, yet look back and remember, the American Civil war amidst the bloodshed. Tens of thousands of mothers rallied together and created Mother's for Peace. Created not only to remember the tens of thousands of dead sons and daughters but stand firm that we need peace, now. Long before hallmark cards christianized the day, mother's stood tall on mother's for peace.

In the reading today from the Books of Acts the family of Tabitha shouted

“Please come to us without delay!”

Seeing the Tabitha story in a larger context helps. The word “ANASTETHI means GET UP” Tabitha Get Up, we Get up from where we are in life.

We get up and miracles happen. God breaks in and miracles break in.

Miracles happen as we confront the secular world that would shut down the proclamation. Tabitha a pillar of the Church was living testimony of miracles.

Then and now miracles happen. Just one week ago we were moving my mother who has stage four breast and lung cancer from the third floor to the 2nd Floor of the VIVA care facility. The week included all of my estranged family, my

brother his two sons, my brother-in-law and his son, my sister, my niece and her boyfriend, my husband and myself. The miracle was that we were all

working together in cooperation and harmony to make the move peaceful for my other. God breaks in and makes miracles happen.

God breaks in Tabitha gets up, we get up

And hear the text of Revelation , “There was a great multitude.”

In the book of Revelation there are clear tensions between the community that worships the Lamb and the world that has been pulled into the cult of the emperor. The community that worships the lamb ushers in the reign of Christ's forgiveness . In the New Creation there is vision of victory that defines our path.

In our path we often speak of Church growth as the definitive moment where we bring our voice of invitation to the wounded of the world.

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This week I was listening to the CBC Ideas Programs The Accommodating Space: A Hotel Check-in. In the community of Faith are we hotel guests or residents. Yes, and no. There are times we enter and begin as invited guests. It is during the preliminary check that we may transition to become resident in our self identification as a key component of who we are in relationship to the community of faith that becomes part of our nomenclature.

The texts that we read each Sunday inform part of our Christian identity.

In the gospel of John we hear,

“At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem”

Our story begins by situating the debate that Jesus is having with his religious opponents. They are walking in the portico of Solomon in the temple, at the time of the feast of Dedication—what we know as the celebration of Hanukkah, the feast that recalls God's reclaiming of Jerusalem through the heroic faith of the Maccabees. It is here we encounter the Good shepherd vs warrior in the community of belonging. God speaks from burning bush – “I am who I am. ‘Messiah’.

It is the geography of belonging that becomes the navigation for the community of faith.

JESUS WAS WALKING IN THE TEMPLE, we walk into the Sanctuary of Manor Road.

We walk in the word from Revelation, there was a great multitude, salvation belongs to us. The moment and event of transformation begins now.

I heard the CBC program this week “What to expect when you are expecting”.

Some reluctant mothers speak personally about the fears of being pregnant in a climate change world. While others proclaim we need to persevere in the face of uncertainty and find solutions of mending and bridge building together.

Salvation belongs to us as we proclaim “TABITHA GET UP”, “PLEASE COME TO US WITHOUT DELAY” “There was a great multitude” “At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem” At this time we hear the voice of Jesus saying, “My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me” We hear the voice of Jesus in the love songs of heart.

We are the voice of Jesus

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As Tabitha gets up, so we rise up and rise up as the trumpet blowing.

We are the voice as we rise up to live in Charity.

Charity is Charos- the love of the other for the sake of the living God.

On this Christian Family Sunday we are called to examine the nature of the love that we voice.

I am a child of adoption, the voice of this poem legacy of an adopted child speaks

“The Legacy of the Adopted Child”

*Once there were two women
Who never knew each other.
One you do not remember,
The other you call mother.
Two different lives
Shaped to make yours one.
One became your guiding star,
The other became your sun.*

*The first gave you life
And the second taught you to live it.
The first gave you a need for love
And the second was there to give it.
One gave you a nationality,
The other gave you a name.
One gave you a seed of talent,
The other gave you an aim.
One gave you emotions,
The other calmed your fears.
One saw your first sweet smile,
The other dried your tears.*

*One gave you up -
It was all that she could do.
The other prayed for a child
And God led her straight to you.
And now you ask me*

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*Through your tears,
The age-old question
Through the years:
Heredity or environment
Which are you the product of?
Neither, my darling - neither,
Just two different kinds of love.*

- Author Unknown

We are the voice as we rise up to live in Charity.

In the book of Acts “ He gave her his hand and helped her up”

We give our hands egos/pathos / logis - in confidence with sympathy to the be
the sacred living word, that we encounter in Revelation.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more.

We rise again in the faces
Of our children
We rise again in the voices of our song
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean
And then we rise again

We are the voice as we rise up to live in Charity.

Tabitha get up, please come with out delay. There was a great multitude
at that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.
My sheep here my voice, I know them and they follow me

We are the voice of the Living Christ as we rise up to live in Charity.

This poem came to me this week.
The Lord is Shepherd
No want Lie down in the green
The Lord is Shepherd
Still waters Restores soul

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The Lord is Shepherd
Leads, right paths, Walk through dark valley
The Lord is Shepherd
Fear no evil, Prepare table
The Lord is Shepherd
Anoint head, Cup overflows
The Lord is Shepherd
Mercy follows now, Come now
The Lord is Shepherd
Gave his hand, Hunger no more thirst no more
The Lord is Shepherd
Hear my voice, Follow me
The Lord is Shepherd

We are the Voice of the Living Christ, the invitation
LIVE IN CHARITY / Rise again