

Monday: Genesis 18: 1 - 15; 21:1 - 7. “Is anything too extraordinary for the Lord?” In a time when we find fewer people connecting to faith traditions, combined with a political climate that seems to be more divisive than ever, and continued protests over racial injustice, we could probably empathize with Sarah. How shall we respond to God’s promise of life and healing and wholeness? How shall we respond when fear is the primary tool of many in leadership, used to divide and manipulate? Cynical laughter. Disbelieving laughter. Why not? However, against the background of Abraham’s silence and Sarah’s incredulous laughter, God’s promise rings through. In the midst of humanity’s capacity for messing things up, God is faithful.

Tuesday: Psalm 116:1 - 2, 12 - 19. Read the Psalm through 4 or 5 times, aloud if possible. Pause when a word or phrase seems to “jump out” or “shimmer” as you read. Why does that word or phrase seem to stand out? What is God saying to you in this moment? To what action is God calling you?

Wednesday: Romans 5: 1 - 5. What do you think about these verses? Have you ever found yourself arguing with Paul here? Why or why not? These words were meant only for individuals - he is speaking to the community as a whole. “We rejoice in sufferings...” When reading these words through the lens of community, how does this change how you hear them?

Thursday: Matthew 9:35 - 10:24. Proclaim. Cure. Raise. Cleanse. Cast out. These verbs form the core of the mission of disciples of Jesus. He sends the 12, ready or not? In what ways do you feel unprepared for the task Jesus lays before us? In what ways do you feel qualified and ready to go? What parts of the mission scare you? What parts excite you? Where is God calling you to go in the days, weeks and months ahead?

Friday: Activity - On Sunday Rick closed his message with the words, “...as we go, we will encounter lost travelers along the way who are looking for a town called ‘Hope’” Who do you know that is looking for hope? Who needs a hopeful word from you? Consider reaching out - making a call, sending a card, or making a special recipe.

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