

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

The past two weeks during our sermons we've been looking at "call" stories, first with the young boy Samuel and then with the four fishermen, called by Jesus to follow him. We've seen examples of people faithfully heeding God's call to join Him on His mission to heal and love the world. And we've talked about how hard following this call can be. There are days when we have exuberant energy...and days when we feel weary and heavy-laden. Lent, which begins on Wednesday, February 14th, with Ash Wednesday, can also be a time that feels heavy-laden: it is solemn, it can feel a little dark. A few years ago I came across the following poem and it resonated with me. I'd like to share it with you, and maybe it will speak to you, too.

*i have come undone,
no longer content
with what was enough
to get by,
to carry me
through another day.
you feel it too,
mercy tugging in the darkness?
oh I'm coming,
dragging my bones
to that path of completeness,
for that ageless saturation of
love.*

-Janet Johnson Anderson

I love the phrase "mercy tugging in the darkness?" The image, of a great benevolent force that we cannot see or describe pulling us in a direction that will benefit us, is a powerful thing to me. Is that how God works in our lives? Gently nudging us in the direction He'd have us go for our own good; and, when necessary, pushing or pulling us a little harder, when we get stubborn and refuse to listen to His voice. *Mercy tugging in the darkness?* You see, God invites us into the fullness of His grace and mercy, but never demands it. He invites us into fellowship with Him. It's a choice. If we choose to follow, grace and mercy are what we will find. When we have "come undone" and have reached our wits' end, we will find a "saturation of love" waiting for us. Doesn't that sound wonderful? Isn't that exactly what we need? Not just now, but every single day of our lives? I know I do. I hope you'll choose to follow God's nudges in your own life. It will make all the difference - not that we won't still have moments of coming undone, because we will. But we will have mercy and love as our companions along the way.

Peace be with you as you go about your day.

Pastor Kara

