

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Compassion Is a Bridge-Builder

Dear Friends,

When we moved here, everyone asked, "How are you liking it?" Every time we'd say 'Good' or 'Everything is going well' we'd hear: "We hope you last to Spring"! Since then, several storms have come through, causing us to miss worship at the church TWICE, which we're told is unusual. Not that we'd know. EVERYTHING in Minnesota is unusual for us!

But it IS reassuring to hear from other people - long time residents even - things are different for them, too. By sharing in empathy and compassion; even by sharing their impressions, we feel included and supported in this season of adjustment.

I think this might be a universal truth: compassion is a bridge-builder. When we take the time to be present with others: asking how they are doing, talking about what things they've experienced, listening to their stories and letting them know some about our own, we are helping them know they matter.

In the song "Make You Feel My Love," written by Bob Dylan (have you Minnesotans heard of him?), the singer talks about the various types of weather (emotional and physical) we might experience in this life, but then promises to work through it all to let the listener feel their love. It is an amazing song, made even more incredible when you hear the soulful Adele sing it. If there was ever a pledge of love that endures through all things, Adele's voice singing Dylan's song is the very expression of it.

This week in worship, Matthew also writes of an expression of love. His lyrics are less poetic but no less moving. It is full of the reassurance a father has for a son and the love the two share for one another... and us. There is a demonstration of compassion and a physical demonstration of a bridge - made by the presence of the Holy Spirit and through Baptism - from God to Jesus and from Jesus to us.

This week at worship, we'll talk more about Holy Winds and other weather, share compassion with one another, listen to Adele's version of "Make You Feel My Love" and give more reasons to listen to modern music to remind us of our Christian walks. I can't wait to see you all... weather permitting!

In Christ,

Pastor Brian

