

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY IX - WALK, STOP, RUN

Ordinary Time

Joshua 5:10-12

Summary of a Sermon Preached by
Pastor Amy Roon
University Congregational United Church of Christ
Seattle, Washington 98125
Date, 2017

Scripture – Read by Liturgists

Listen for the word of God.

Joshua 5:10-12¹

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Pastor Amy Roon

Prayer:

God,
Be in our hearts,
Be in our heads,
Be in our understanding. – Amen.

Note: Because the recording failed, this is a summary provided by Jeff Keith.

Rev. Amy Roon's sermon ... was drawn, in part, from Joshua 5:10-12. She gave a brief introductory meditation, then six members and friends joined her up front [who] walked, stopped, ran, as they individually shared some brief migration experiences from their journeys [while carrying assorted luggage].

Amy told of her own upbringing and her grandfather's impact on her spiritual development. With some piano back up from David, she told of her college roommate's formation of a new word: "Dilemmalyze". (How we can create a dilemma when we over-analyze something: a situation or problem we are facing.) This can be something like packing too much to take on a journey. We need to ask: What do we truly need, and what can we leave behind? The Israelites in the scriptural story wanted the extra unleavened bread, but what could they leave behind?

Eva Lieber wants to let go of the notion that a bare minimum of effort can achieve an A+ grade.

¹ The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), Old Testament. ©1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. .

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Lori VanderBilt faces the challenges of work, and the personal worries that put her into a downward spiral (people she is close to who face serious health issues). She prayed and asked, "What can I do?" And an answer came: "Do what you love doing!" She dropped her bag.

Laura Bailey set down her bag and said she has found easy predictability and expectations for the future tedious and she has decided to lay them aside. She wants to embrace a future of unpredictability. She sees each day as a gift that God invites her to savor in the present, that she knows God is walking with her.

Anika Segall has decided to let go of being afraid of the future and she finds that with less baggage in her life there is more room for the love of God.

A Woman (unidentified), pulling a big suitcase with wheels, shared that she needs to let go of critical inner voices, and she told them "Hit the road, Jack!"

William Segall was carrying a big suitcase around and told how he works as a teacher in the Seattle Public schools. Each day there is the challenge to be a supportive teacher, guide and mentor. There are also the challenges of being the best parent, spouse and friend. Rather, he wants to do his best as distinct from being "The Best". He let that big suitcase drop with a loud thud.

Then Amy shared how her grandfather said, "In my household we shall serve the Lord." But as he aged there were concerns about his own abilities to be a person of faith and serve others while caring for himself. When she helped him to cross the driveway from his car to his front door he would lean on her for support. Yet, she had to act as if she were leaning upon him for his support, as he treasured his role of being the supportive leader. He seemed glad of her intentions to attend seminary, but it also gave him pause as he'd probably never known a woman who was a preacher before her. Her take-away from that was the experience should not just be "you helping me" or "me helping you". Rather, recognize there is room to ask, "How can we do this together?" – Amen!

UCUCC: AR and others

Transcribed/edited 12/21/2017 by Beth Bartholomew from email from Jeff Keith 11/12/2017 supplemented by her own notes..