Reverend Veronica Walsh Don 603-878-1684 [www.masoncongregationalchurch.org](http://www.masoncongregationalchurch.org)

**Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation** From the Center for Action and Contemplation



 **God Loves Imperfect Things** Father Richard shares that both Genesis and the Gospels point us to the truth that “everyone belongs.” He believes several of his meditations this week are the very heart and foundation of his teaching. Read them twice!

Try to think of the Reign of God as Jesus’ way of saying “the Big Picture” or “in the Largest Frame.” It is not a place as much as the ultimate perspective, the perspective of God. Whenever we open ourselves to the Big Frame, our little frame of reference shrinks into proper perspective or even falls away entirely. Life can’t be based on what is passing; it can’t be based on transitory images. Instead, we have to base it on the lasting truth, on the truth of who we are, on the truth of this creation, which God says is “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

Our problem seems to consist in the fact that we’re convinced of not being good. And we need a great deal of trust to believe God’s pronouncement that everything God created is very good—even in its imperfect state. We seem to believe that only perfect things are lovable. Yet the Gospels say very clearly that God loves imperfect things, which is really everything! Perfection is invariably our own self-created notion, manufactured largely in our own thinking mind or by our culture; thus, it is both delusional and, finally, self-defeating—as well as a major enemy and obstacle to loving what is right in front of us.

Only God can lay claim to perfection. Yet we keep plowing ahead, demanding a desired and expected response from ourselves and from the world, even when we seldom get it. We then use this disappointing information to notice everyone else’s imperfection! Such a false crusade only gets more compulsive and demanding the older we get.

Those who don’t have anything to prove or protect believe they are loved as they are. But we who have spent our lives ascending the spiritual ladder have a harder time hearing this truth. For the truth isn’t found up at the top of our striving, but down at the bottom in our deepest nature. By trying to climb the ladder upward we miss Christ, who comes down through the Incarnation.

The proclamation of the Reign of God is a radical political and theological statement. It has nothing to do with being perfect. It has to do with living inside the Big Frame, the final and full state of affairs, the lasting perspective. The gospel is before all else a call to live differently, so that life can be shared with others. In other words, the gospel is ultimately calling us to a stance of simplicity, vulnerability, dialogue, powerlessness, and humility. These are the only virtues that make communion and community and intimacy possible.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go](https://email.cac.org/t/d-l-akynkk-tlkrhjdhlt-r/), rev. ed. (New York: Crossroad Publishing, 2003), 56, 57, 58; and “The Trap of Perfectionism: Two Needed Vulnerabilities,” “Perfection,” Oneing, vol. 4, no. 1 (Albuquerque, NM: CAC Publishing, 2016), 74, [print](https://email.cac.org/t/d-l-akynkk-tlkrhjdhlt-y/), [PDF](https://email.cac.org/t/d-l-akynkk-tlkrhjdhlt-j/).

**Image Credit:** Brian McLaren, Untitled 10-12 (detail), 2021, photograph, United States. Jenna Keiper and Leslye Colvin, 2021, triptych art, United States. The creative team at CAC sent a single-use camera to Brian McLaren as part of an exploration into contemplative photography. His photos are featured here in a form inspired by early Christian/Catholic triptych art: a threefold form that tells a unified story.

**Image Inspiration:** The two outside photos in this triptych can appear spare, bare, or apart. The photo in the middle brings together a collection of unique items supported by the table. What happens when we are intentional about connection, or together-ing, rather than other-ing?

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Church Is on Zoom for the next 6-8 weeks due to high Covid transmission… Sundays at 10 am on zoom.

We do not record services. Mason Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Mason Congregational Church Service

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82121212979

Meeting ID: 821 2121 2979

**Our live Zoom is easy!** You can simply click on the blue link we send out, and a window will open inviting you to say yes, “launch Zoom,” and you are in. If it is your first time on Zoom, the software will ask you to download Zoom onto your device before opening the launch window. Email Reverend Veronica if you wish to be added to the email list so you will have the zoom link, the order of service, and the sermon. Revpalvwd50@aol.com

When you enter Zoom, the host will let you in from the “waiting room.” You are automatically muted when you enter. Simply hover your cursor arrow over the bottom (or sometimes it’s on the top) of your screen, over the little picture of the microphone. If it has a red line, you are muted. Click on it, and you are unmuted! You can stay unmuted until the service begins, at which point we are all typically silent, so we ask that you be muted until the service is over. Then we “Zoomers” have our social time, and catch up with our news, or just sharing a time of fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting.   Click on the link below or copy and paste the link into your search engine. Remember when you go to the link, you can also use your regular phone to call in, listen, and also participate. See you on Sunday! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82121212979> Any questions, please call or text Michelle at 603 801-9140 for help!

**Upcoming Events**

* **Prepare to Serve On Zoom from Feb 8 thru 17** This is the annual event of the Congregational Church Conference to prepare church leaders and “church goers” to serve the community and each other in so many different ways. It is inexpensive, even less so than usual, since it is online this year. Same great variety of workshops that they come up with each year. Check out the website!

The theme this year is from the scripture passage in: 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation is come. The old has gone, the new is here!*

**Prepare to Serve features 12 workshops from February 8-17.**

Some of this year's workshop topics include: How to do Hybrid Worship, Copyright Compliance and the Local Church, How to Become a Creation Care Church, What It Means to be Open and Affirming, How to Become a Racial Justice Church, Thinking Outside the Box to address shrinking church membership and finances, Dealing with the intensified emotions of grief and loss during the pandemic. Registration will open on January 3, 2022. [www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve](http://www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve) **Workshop Information:**[Download the event brochure](https://www.nhcucc.org/uploads/documents/caring-for-congregations/PTS/PTS%202022%20Brochure.pdf) to learn more. **Registration:** Registration is open!  Visit <https://cvent.me/YdeNld> to register now.

* **Mason Church Annual Meeting:**  Since our congregation is not meeting in person at this time, the Council decided to postpone the annual meeting until April or late March. However, your annual reports from 2021 are still due to Dotsie by January 31, so that she can put together the report. Thank you to everyone for getting these to Dotsie
* **Thinking about our Annual Meeting** Using your most creative mind, dream up some ideas of how our Church could better serve the community. What activities could be going on in Fellowship Hall? What kind of outreach to serve those who are lonely, or need support of others who have similar needs and/or who have wisdom around a particular topic.
* **Page Turner’s Book Group**  Not a library sponsored group, just readers in Mason. Open to all! meeting at noon on Tuesdays monthly. This month’s choice is **The Reading List** by Sara Nishi Adams. Books, CDs for the audio reader, and information about this group can be from joining by emailing miscott39@gmail.com or contacting library@masonnh.us. Next meeting is Feb 15th at noon. We will meet at Mason Church in Fellowship Hall at noon, with masks, and physical distancing, or on zoom:

 **Page Turners** is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Page Turner's Book Group Time: Feb 15, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89410021916?pwd=eWpnb21VVU5jTjBUYWVML21xS2prQT09

Meeting ID: 894 1002 1916 Passcode: 000662

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89410021916#,,,,\*000662# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,89410021916#,,,,\*000662# US (New York)

Dial by your location

 +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbLrFjCh1x

* **Nashua Soup Kitchen - News** [**www.nsks.org**](http://www.nsks.org) **603 889-7770** You can donate online! Support our local friends. Rich, one of the managers, tells me that they are back to serving dinners, and do need volunteers. They serve all food from the kitchen counter, where you are not less than 3 ft from participants, but you are in a crowded and not well ventilated kitchen. So most volunteers are not yet back in service.

Their most recent newsletter “Bread and Board” expressed gratefulness in so many ways for the past year plus, and featured these items on a wish list: At the shelters, they often host children. If there is a birthday, they love to have supplies on hand to “make a party” so they can use party hats, balloons, cups and plates, and small gifts such as baby dolls, basketballs, craft sets, and gift cards for tweens and teens. You can drop these off at the soup kitchen.

* **St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry**  **Call 878-0518 or direct to Maureen 291-0022** This is our local food pantry that can always use your support. Each time you attend church, please bring an item for the food pantry! Remember, paper goods are welcome as well. Toilet paper, wax paper, etc. We have our tote in the church for items, and thank you to Bettie for delivering these to St Vincent.
* **Still on Hold--Community Supper –** Team “CS” is looking forward to the day when we can cook, and share! Due to low vaccination rates in our area, and current infection rate/hospitalizations, and the ages of the average participants in the Community Supper, it is not feasible to renew our community suppers.
* **Trails in Mason for you to Snowshoe!** Mason Conservation Commission has trails for you to explore! Try the newly trimmed up Bronson Potter Trails off Greenville Road, or the Florence Roberts Trail off Valley Road. Go to the Town website, and find more info under the Conservation Commission tab. This is a way to refresh your soul in nature, to boost your immune system, and to energize your body.

 **Remember our church family in your prayers, a call, or a card. Loneliness can be relieved by caring and connection, at least temporarily, and price of this “gift” is mostly free!**

* **Harry Spears**  Harry is home again, but still recuperating. This is all taking too long! Encourage him by calling or sending a card, 204 Starch Mill Rd, Mason, NH 03048 cell 603 878-1688
* **Jenny Greenwood** We are once again near lockdown with our elderly fearing crowds, and avoiding gatherings which means more-than-usual isolation! Jenny likes company, so come by for a visit, or call her 878- 2485
* **Susan and Jim Suokko** Jim has been having increasing memory issues, and moved to assisted living at Summerhill early this month. His direct line is 1-603-924-9955. His address is: **Summer Hill AL, 183 Old Dublin Road, Peterborough, NH 03458**. He is allowed visitors, but you must call Jean at 603-547-7292 to make an appointment to visit. Susan will be in Florida from late January until May. She and Jim talk every night! Florida address is: **8814 28th Ave. Palmetto, FL 34221**.

Massachusetts address for Susan: **50 Brooks Pond Rd, Apt 104, Leominster, MA 01453.**  Call Susan or text at 941 920-0270 email: usercat2@comcast.net

* **Prayer Shawl Ministry** Speaking of Susan Suokko… she has been the backbone of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and has passed the baton to Mason Church Diaconate. We continue to have calls from members, friends of friends, or relatives of friends who want a special shawl. We can mail these out, please request through Pastor Veronica or a Deacon. We sew on a 3-inch crocheted cross, if requested, and adapt the Prayer Shawl poem with the person’s name, and the names of family members if indicated. **Knitters needed!** We can provide yarn and patterns for any knitters. Thank you to both Susan Suokko and Cindy Tibbetts for making shawls recently! Contact Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com for information, or to have a prayer shawl delivered or mailed.
* **Peg Schuster/Morrison** was a Mason Church member until her death in 2010, and offered rides to shut-ins and anyone who needed help. She would have been one of the first to volunteer for Community Volunteer Transportation Services, CVTC! See below. Follow in the footsteps of such a special person by helping get those who can no longer drive to where they need to be! Honor Peg by signing up to be a driver…

 **Get a Ride, or Give a Ride: EVERYONE BENEFITS**

Right down the road, right now, someone needs a ride to somewhere essential. And volunteer drivers for Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) drive people where they need to go.

When riders can keep their essential appointments, they stay independent, and can live at home in peace. Riders can request to be taken to their doctor’s or social service appointments, post office, bank, pharmacy or grocery shopping; all non-emergency. A five business-days’ advance notice is all CVTC needs to enter a rider’s trip request in our Trip List system. And for the rider, it is more than just the free ride. Our drivers are courteous and trustworthy, willing to converse and engage. Sometimes even new friendships are made.

Once our vetted volunteer drivers choose which trips best fit their schedule, they call the rider to verify pick-up times and, when they return home themselves, they track their total mileage for reimbursement from CVTC. Drivers select when, and to where, and for how long they are available. By making this difference in a rider’s life, drivers contribute to the health of the Monadnock Region, one person at a time.

Please call CVTC for more information at **1-877-428-2882 x 5.** Contact Michelle Scott, a driver, if you want first hand experience of what it’s like to volunteer at CVTC!