

The Tapping of the Heart Prayerfully read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

(We) speak god's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory.
(v.7)

God's wisdom is mysterious, Paul tells us. It is often secret and hidden. It catches us off guard, startling us when it comes unexpectedly—in both simple and profound ways. It is hidden in many places—in the human heart, in our first and last breaths, in the birth-cry of a baby, in the heart of a seed, to the song of a bird, in the shining of the sun, in soft falling rain, in the power of a storm, in the turning of a leaf, in a change of heart, in the pages of history, in our daily crosses, in the cries of the poor, in a heart moved to compassion, in moments of forgiveness, in joy and in sorrow, in the pages of Scripture. It is hidden in Jesus crucified; in Oscar Romero shot down at the altar in El Salvador, in the five sisters from Rumania...

All of this suggests that the wisdom of God is not unreachable for us. Our God is a sharer of divine wisdom and the spirit that moved over the waters at creation is moving still. As we learn to live with expectant, listening hearts, we will be more receptive to this holy wisdom that often shows up on our doorstep when we are looking for it in the heavens.

In every age, in every nation, in every people God's wisdom has been revealed. Revealed, but not fully perceived or received. It takes a special kind of person to grasp this mysterious wisdom that comes to us from the Spirit. Mindfulness, desire, and vigilance are gifts that can assist us in grasping the wisdom of God that surrounds us and abides within us.

Are our lives rooted in Christ, any different? What is this mysterious hidden wisdom that Paul speaks about in his first letter to the Corinthians? We are told that we have the mind of Christ. We have a mystical, compelling presence within—the Spirit of Jesus dwelling in the depths of our beings. Surely, we too can learn to attend the tapping of the heart, which is the wisdom of God revealing itself to us in the deepening places of our lives. To catch up with this wisdom, we must learn to listen with a simplicity of heart that is difficult for most twenty-first-century people. In order to understand this hidden wisdom of God, we need to learn how to connect with the part of us that is most primitive, or, we might say, the part within us that is most original—closest to the Source of all life.

Listen to the tapping! Listen to the breath of the risen Christ, breathing you ever more deeply into your divine heart-space. For when you become one with Christ, it will be easier to hear the tapping of your heart. To hear the tapping "out there," you must become silent enough to hear the tapping "within." Recently I have added to my daily practice of "deep listening," a touch to my heart space when words, events, or experiences take hold of me in a significant manner. For example, in reading a book, if I am moved by a specific sentence or paragraph, I pause and put my hand over my heart. I also do this when I am watching TV or a movie—the program continues but the symbol of my hand on my heart tells me I don't want to forget that image or those words. At those times when I am in conversation with someone and what we are trying to convey to one another seems vital, my hand over my heart reminds me not to take this moment of communion lightly... The more frequently I practice this kind of presence, it becomes for me a way of listening to the tapping of the heart. This simple ritual enables me to believe in and treasure the deepening places.

From **Abide: Keeping Vigil with the Word of God** by Macrina Wiederkehr

Upcoming Events

- **Community Supper July 13th, 2017 and August 10th, 2017 5:30 to 7pm**
During the summer, we have somewhat lighter fare, but still delicious, and homemade.
- **After Dinner Music in the Gazebo at 7-8pm July 13.** Jane Fallon will entertain us with story songs, and her engaging ways with music. Jane's clear voice, and original songs are a treat. No charge for gathering around the gazebo. Just bring a lawn chair or blanket, or both, and maybe bug spray—tho often there are no bugs!
- **After Dinner Music in the Gazebo at 7-8pm August 10th** Bob Pope, whose musical talents range over a wide variety of songs. He always gets a big hand at our Living Room Coffee House! Check out a sample at www.reverberations.com/folkriverun4 Don't forget your lawn chair.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, July 8th and August 12th.** Call Kathy Chapman to let her know if you plan on coming since we can't bring too many, but need enough! Meet in the parking lot of the church at 3pm for carpooling. This is a mission open to all. Invite a friend or neighbor, and you may open an opportunity for another caring person. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com.
- **Rebecca A. Smith and Dennis J. Frerichs** will be married on July 15, 2017 in the Mason Congregation Church at 6 pm. This is our own Deborah Prince Smith and Don Smith's wonderful daughter! We are all happy for her and for Dennis, and of course, Kasey, Rebecca's daughter.
- **Summer worship under the trees is on August 20th 10:00 am.** It is a combined service with Brookline congregation. Mike Damery is meeting with Kristine Brock Monday evening to work on details. Mike, Charlie, and Rodney are spearheading this event for the church. My role is communication, sound tech and drummer. I will keep you up to date with details as I learn of them.
- **Reaching out** The Deacons and Reverend Veronica have reached out to a Muslim community in Fitchburg to invite them to visit us in Mason. The purpose is to find common ground with those who are different from us. Several of the families, men and women and children came to worship service in April, and a grand group of 5 women, 2 teenagers, and 3 children came to our Conversations with Women. It was an excellent time of sharing, learning about each other's religion, and telling our 'women stories.' We will be looking for other ways to connect and share. We have been invited to their celebration of the end of Ramadan which falls in late June. (see end note) Let Rev Veronica know if you want to go.
- **Lending Library Books and Music** Notice the fine bookshelf in Fellowship Hall that has books for lending—all nicely organized, and alphabetized by a church angel. Steve Tamulonis has contributed some CDs for lending/listening. Please sign them out, and return in a reasonable time. Enjoy this mission/blessing.

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

- **Prayer shawls still needed, free yarn available.** Spend some time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern.

If you know someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680

Attention knitters: Go to <http://twillnh.com/calendar-4/> and check out Sandy's website, and the schedule for activities there. It may be our next Conversations with Women outing!



- **The Damery Family** Marlene had a cochlear implant on April 25. Marlene is slowly getting used to the new sounds, and her brain struggles to sort out what she needs—(that's my interpretation of how Marlene describes this process). She has a new haircut, and seems upbeat about the cochlear implant!
- **Tom Fallon.** Tom Fallon passed away in June. Please keep Edie in your prayers. You can email or mail her a card. PO Box 394, Peterborough, NH 03458 or email: ehfallon@aol.com
- **Curt Dunn** and Karin Eisenhaure. Keep them in prayer, and conversation. Curt keeps up with all the news, and Karin keeps up with Curt!
- **Cindy Tibbetts** Cindy and Jim are in Milford, but also in our thoughts! She may need rides to church when Jim or her parents can't do this. **Give Cindy a call at 249-9399.** Address: Cahill Place, 486 Nashua St. Milford 03055 Note: correct phone number from last month
- **Laila Washburn** Our oldest member, and one of our most special! Laila Washburn, c/o Brett Kivela, 25 Will Road, New Ipswich 03071. Although visitors are welcome from 10am to 7pm, it is good to call first. 878-3065
- **Gretchen Brown** has limited mobility these days, and loves visitors. You can call ahead 878-1481 or stop by. Gretchen is on a special diet in an effort to alleviate her chronic pain. It is gluten free, and sugar free. Please call Wally and Gretchen at 878-1481 or Michelle if you need help with cooking ideas or details 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com
- **Cynthia and Jeff** are going up to their camp early this year. They send their greetings to all, and promise to be back in late fall! Nothing quite like our beautiful New Hampshire summers.
- **Jim and Susan Suokko** continue to support their daughter and grandchildren as they grieve the loss of their dad to cancer.
- **Do you know someone who needs spiritual support or other support, of the pastor and deacons?** Please call, your church family may be able to help. Leave a confidential message for Pastor Veronica Walsh Don at 603-878-1684 or on her personal phone at 603-213-6368.

Prayer from M. Wierderkehr: Jesus, Look kindly on all children here and around the world. Let your blessing of love and protection fall on them like dew from the heavens. Make your home in the heart of every child. Bless also the lost child in the lives of those who have grown up too fast. Reveal to us the hidden wisdom that lives in every experience. Unveil our grownup eyes and give us joy in the little things. Return us to our original love. Amen

Mason Congregational Church July-August 2017

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