

Ordinary Time



So much of life is spent doing ordinary, everyday things and looking back, it's sometimes hard to remember the things we accomplished or the experiences we had because life was just so ordinary. Oliver Sacks, neurologist, writer, and poet, said it this way. "When we see in everyday life things that are petty, ordinary, and banal we generally fail to remember them, because the mind is not being stirred by anything novel or marvelous. But if we see or hear something exceptionally base, dishonorable, unusual, great, unbelievable, or ridiculous, (those things) we are likely to remember for a long time...Ordinary things easily slip from the memory while the striking and novel stay longer in the mind."

The season after Pentecost is known as "Ordinary Time". Church historian, Diana Butler Bass, says, "It's pretty strange how the Christian story moves from resurrection of Jesus, to fire from heaven and speaking in tongues, to...Ordinary Time. Nothing novel or marvelous. Just the regular rhythms of life."

On Sunday, June 11th, as Ordinary Time was gearing up, we heard two scriptures in worship. God asks Abram to leave his

home and follow him to a new land and Jesus asks Matthew, a tax collector to follow him. Both stories are about following God as an act of faith. But, Diana points out that, "...following also involves some pretty regular things...packing up, venturing out, pitching a tent, sharing a meal with friends."

The months of Ordinary Time are an invitation to take all that we have learned about our triune God during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost and put it into practice in our everyday, ordinary lives. It's when we begin to see that our ordinary, day-in-and-day-out lives are where we walk our spiritual journey with God. Ordinary Time is when we find joy in our service to God, peace in our worship and praise, enlightenment in our Bible reading and study, joy in our singing, closeness to God in our prayer and meditation, and a growing love between all our Chapel friends and family. And, Ordinary Time is when we feel the courage and confidence to witness to all these things to others who we meet in our ordinary, everyday lives.

For all the amazing celebrations of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, it's in Ordinary Time that all of us who are following Jesus are to be the most alive, the engaged, and the most fulfilled in our daily journeys of following Jesus and yielding to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It's during Ordinary Time that our love for God and for one another should be most evident to those around us.

No doubt, Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary. In fact it is filled with the extraordinary. In fact it's the time when Abram followed God and became the Father of a great nation and Matthew followed Jesus into a whole new life. Following God in the midst of the ordinary is to discover the extraordinary all around us...to find the wonder and magic and spirituality that fills our everyday lives.



This year for us at the Chapel in the Pines, Ordinary Time holds such promise for our individual and corporate spiritual growth and the growth of our church. And, when these things come about, I promise, they won't be remembered as "petty, ordinary, and banal". No, they will be celebrated for years to come.

Peace,
Pastor Paul