

AMAZED

The people who heard Jesus
were repeatedly amazed.
Are we today so sophisticated
that we are immune to
amazement?
Can we know that he was
crucified,
Goodness and Compassion
and Love
nailed upon the tree,
and go about our business
of preparing for Easter dinner?
Can we know that he arose
from the dead
and walked the earth
and ate and spoke
with his followers
and sit unamazed in the pew
as though we cannot hear
the WORD OF GOD!
O God of Jesus the Christ,
the amazing thing
Is our lack of amazement
In the face of your
AMAZING AMEN!

"Amazed," Kneeling in Jerusalem by Ann Weems, pg. 83

I shared those words, favorites of mine, although they are rather harsh. Maybe we don't lack amazement. Maybe we are simply numb to the Good News. Maybe we take God's gift of love for us for granted. Whatever, we need to reset our hearts and minds. We need to re-engage with our story of God with us, and God's promise of life eternal here and now, even in the midst of our disappointments and fears. Even when we know we have messed up and God must be royally disappointed in us.

We need to connect to God's faithful love for us and with us more intentionally. My suggestions are likely familiar: make worship a priority. Read the preaching text for each week. Take time to pray...not just at stoplights. And, be open to what God is calling you to do for others.

The "church" is not just one more thing on our "to do" list. Who we are as a faith community is not about a gathering of like-minded friends. What if we all understood that our primary task is to become more like Jesus? We are to "follow" Jesus which means we are to live and do for others as he did. We are to become love in response to God's love. It is amazing. Understanding is a life-long journey. May we embrace it.

Blessings and peace,
Barb