



PRESBYTERY of SANTA BARBARA

September 9, 2020

Greetings Santa Barbara Presbytery,

Check out this thought from Nelsen Mandela,

“There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.” — Nelson Mandela

Have you ever found yourself settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of?

Over the past eight months, we have experienced a season of needed lament – from the human and economic loss from the COVID19 pandemic, to the heightened awareness for racial justice, from the growing division in our politics, to simply trying to figure out how to see those we love without putting others in danger. Lament is both needed and necessary.

You want to know what I so appreciate about biblical lament? It’s not simply complaint, but it is honest cries of pain and uncertainty to a God who bring healing to our pain and can “create a way in which there seems to be no way.”

Biblical lament moves towards celebration – we celebrate because there is hope. Always hope even in the midst of suffering. And that hope poured out through the Holy Spirit brings us, eventually, to a place of joy.

At our Presbytery on Saturday, September 19, we’ll gather on Zoom to acknowledge how God is working the midst of 2020. You’ll not only see a video developed from our churches called, Thrive, you’ll be able to celebrate how God has used leaders in our Presbytery in hard times to bring hope. In addition, we’ll do the business of Presbytery.

You’ll be inspired. You’ll be challenged. And you’ll be loved. I am super stoked to share this next Presbytery meeting with you.

See you zoom, I mean soon,

Tom

Rev. Tom Stephen

Moderator, Presbytery of Santa Barbara