

What We Heard as We Listened

In repentance and rest is your salvation... Isaiah 30:15

Repentance...

As you stand at this crossroads, search out and return to the ancient way of which Jeremiah spoke...you are people of the Way! Enter intentionally the hungry, wakeful night that is beginning. Preach the hard good news of repentance: repentance for trying to fix relationships by fixing structures; repentance for too many years of confused motives; repentance for sweeping too much under the rug, preferring the efficient score-cards and hierarchies of the world over cross-shaped discipleship that shares power with diminishment to none; repentance for leadership that fails to honour human limits and human longings for fellowship and joy in ministry; repentance for not bearing with one another in this trying time.

...and rest...

Don't lose confidence that I am near, leading you to discern your story within My Story. I am still your Mother Hen, longing to draw you close. This trying time is a test, which is to say it is an invitation to lay all your own securities down and look into the thicket where you will see the ram I have provided. I am still Pure Glory and Holiness. My kingdom surrounds you: enormous and sheltering, fruitful and beautiful like a big-leaf maple tree. I am Christ, your bedrock. My saving mission will continue whether the CRC exists or not. You ARE way over your heads, but can it be any other way when it is My inexhaustible wisdom you are called to preach and teach and embody? So rest in not needing to solve everything, to know everything. Feel the freedom of dropping the burden of Saul's heavy armour, the ways of the world, and picking up David's five smooth stones instead: *prayer, fellowship, learning, protest, healing*. Find rest in accepting your position as exiles who sometimes sow in tears and even futility but who keep trusting, as Mary did, that the world is always about to turn. Especially find rest in the companions I have given you to inspect the ruined walls of Jerusalem and in the giftedness I have entrusted to each. Find rest in my powerful, simple, beautiful Word which will always give you what you need for your particular moment.

In short, it's time for some ***r & r...***