

June 23 & 25, 2020

LIFE TOGETHER

with the People of Franklin United Methodist Church

Welcome & Introductions

“How is it with you?”

*How are you feeling?
How is your faith? your family? your health?
Are you struggling or celebrating?
Are you grieving or rejoicing?
Are you questioning faith?
Where have you found inspiration?*

Praying Together

1 Kings 17:8-16

Common English Bible

⁸ The LORD’s word came to Elijah: ⁹ Get up and go to Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to take care of you. ¹⁰ Elijah left and went to Zarephath. As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, “Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink.” ¹¹ She went to get some water. He then said to her, “Please get me a piece of bread.”

¹² “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I’m collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We’ll eat the last of the food and then die.”

¹³ Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that. ¹⁴ This is what Israel’s God, the LORD, says: The jar of flour won’t decrease and the bottle of oil won’t run out until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵ The widow went and did what Elijah said. So the widow, Elijah, and the widow’s household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of flour didn’t decrease nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the LORD spoke through Elijah.

Discussion

God tells Elijah that God has ordered a widow to take care of him (v.9).

What do you make of the widow’s response to Elijah when he asks for bread (v.12)?

Could it be that the widow is trying to discern if Elijah is the person God has told her about? Perhaps, she is discerning God’s command to her.

Have you ever thought God was directing you to do something? How did you know it was God? How did you discern God’s word to you?

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

No. 128, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be,
still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me,
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
by waters still, o’er troubled sea,
still ‘tis his hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

3.

Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since ‘tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

4.

And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory’s won,
e’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

‘Till We Meet Again

adapted from No. 672, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

God be with you till we meet again,
by God’s counsels guide, uphold you,
With God’s sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.