

The Celebration Is the Work / The Work Is the Celebration
Juneteenth Sunday, June 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m., All Saints Church, Pasadena
Pastor Lucia Chappelle
Sermon Notes

Open, Thanks, Location, Theme, PRAY.

Out in the desert with the Israelites – a cranky bunch!

no food -> manna (*man hu?*) -> then mad about manna (honey biscuits)

“fleshpots of Egypt” = Egyptian BBQ

they’re dreaming of BBQ and fish fry – Moses and God turning them vegan

Moses goes off at God – I ain’t their Mama!

Moses does a “God take me now!” Mama impression

Israelites give up celebration of manna, manna becomes daily grind

With Jesus and the disciples

burnout: return from missionary tour, try to get vacation -> no escape

time off not bad, just bad timing

work becomes celebration: loaves and fishes (God included the fish this time)

there was a blessing to be had buried in the work

Work or celebration: which is it?

Old CSW stories: parade = party during year of struggle

something to protest every couple days

LAT, ABC Med Ctr & Anita, Studio 1, Vietnam, Barney’s –

“187th Demonstration”

so parade = break, the less work we did, party was all that was left

degeneration

secret: all that protesting was celebration, fun

this year different: something about what we’re facing today changes attitude

celebration of parade = work of visibility, defiance

work only just beginning – make the work the celebration

call each other to the party

nothing like riding the wave of history (Suffs)

joy in every task when you make the work the celebration

Juneteenth: do you make the celebration work for us?

recognizing our ugly past is good, but do we just recognize or do we internalize?

performing the memory -> insight, consciousness raising, history for today

put yourself in the shoes of the “well-meaning segregationists”

and you may understand Trumpsters

put yourself in the shoes of the enslaved now free, lied to,

and you may understand what it’s like still to be Black in U.S.

- supposedly free, but lied to

doing that work in the context of the beloved community, the power in that

sounds risky ... if you do it right ... taking that risk ->

MANNA! LOAVES AND FISHES!

Like Israelites wandering in the desert and the crowd following Jesus into the boonies,
we are moving into uncharted territory, following God into the unknown
 when we broach issues of race/gender/class/sex/etc.
 when we confront the backlash vs. rights (not done without courts before)
Can we make the work the celebration – JOY
Can we allow the celebration to do the work for us -- TRUST