

Song: Anthem

Tom Conry

Refrain:

We are called, we are chosen, We are Christ for one another,
We are promised to tomorrow, while we are for him today
We are sign, we are wonder, We are sower, we are seed,
We are harvest, we are hunger. We are question, we are creed

Then where can we stand justified? In what can we believe?
In no one else but Christ who suffered, nothing more than Christ
who rose

Who was justice for the poor, Who was rage against the night,
Who was hope for peaceful people, Who was light.

Refrain:

Then how are we to stand at all, this world of bended knee?
In nothing more than barren shadows, No one else but Christ
could save us,
Who was justice for the poor, Who was rage against the night,
Who was hope for peaceful people, Who was light.

Refrain:

Then shall we not stand empty, at the altar of our dreams:
When Christ promised us ourselves, Who marks time against
tomorrow,
Who are justice for the poor, Who are rage against the night,
Who are hope for peaceful people, Who are light.

Refrain:

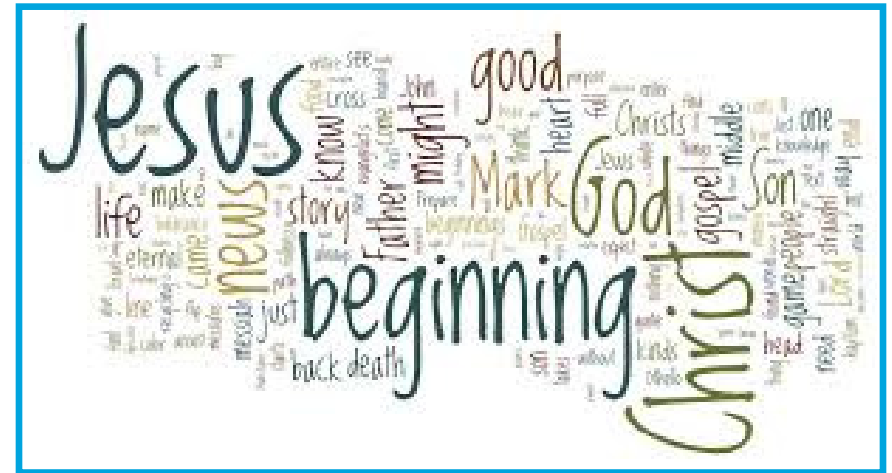
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Where is the Good News Today?



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,
listening & direction

Our prayer is characterized
by silence

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

To Ponder:

Mary Timko

Is it still good news? Do we have to be perfect to share the good news? Sometimes, living through the challenges of everyday life can knock the air out of us. How possible is it to give or receive the good news when we may be more broken than most? I found a bit of myself within the words Parker Palmer's book, *Let Your Life Speak*. Palmer said that he tried to deliver the good news from a position not his own. It didn't work well for him or others. I too view others to be so much more spiritually gifted than me. I want to be like them and deliver the good news outside of the truth, the truth of who I am.

We must be true to who we are, the life we have lived, and the truth of the good news. Looking at Palmer's statement, why is so difficult to admit our gifts and to ignore our limitations? I believe this is a societal issue. We are asked to be everything to everyone. There are no limitations. And while we may intellectually know this is impossible, we listen to our inside feelings that affirms our inadequacy. These internal voices come from years of us accepting the negatives spewed at us throughout our lives.

Another spiritual writer, Matthew Kelley, has similar ideas. He suggests that our focus should be centered on becoming the best version of ourselves. We all have gifts. We need to figure out what they are and nurture them with God's guidance. We then use them for the good of ourselves, for others and for the glory of God. For many of us, those gifts seem to be obscured just by the riggers of daily life. We all make mistakes. But instead of realizing that everyone makes mistakes, we become our defeats and our gifts diminish.

What seems to be key here is that our reliance we should rest in the love God has for us and the good God wants for us. God created us to be in relationship with him and God's wisdom is here for the asking and our discernment.

There still is good news. There are millions of people who need to hear it. And we, as believers, need to spread it in the honesty of who we are, who we are in communion with God and for glory of God.

The Reading:

Nan C. Merrill

O that I might learn to listen to
Your still, quiet voice within
my heart.

For You come to all who welcome You,
to those who await your counsel
and guidance.

All I will ever need, therefore,
Is within me!

Teach me to stand firm like the
mountain,
to flow like a gentle stream,
to bend like a willow in all
of life's storms.

May I become as strong and courageous
As a lion,
gentle as doe, free and farseeing
as an eagle.

Thus, I will walk through my fears—a
witness to love's transforming power!

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection