

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
10th November 2020**

READINGS

Our little girl Lydia turns two in November! It is so much fun watching her learn and grow. She loves to draw pictures. She will ask again and again for you to draw someone in the family. She loves to draw mommy! Now, she thinks it looks like mommy, and we would never tell her it does not quite carry a resemblance, but it is really a big circle with some scribble. Done in love, it is a great picture to enjoy! However, when God says we are created in his image we can be sure we reflect our heavenly Father's nature and attributes. We are knit together, beautifully and wonderfully made, and we reflect the Creator's hand.

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them,
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NRSV)

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Psalms 139:13-14 (NRSV)

In these two passages we are reminded that God has made us in his image. When we see another human being, we are looking upon the face of God. There are many who would allow their political views, personal preferences, or social values to distance them from another who has been made as a reflection of the living God. Yes, we will disagree, and, yes, we often have some good reasons for disagreeing, and yet we must love one another and recognize God's handiwork in each person.

Psalms 139 reminds us that God is at work in us from the time of conception. We are precious in his sight and are beautiful to him, and so we have value to others. Often, we look at worldly beauty and say someone might not be thin enough or cute enough or intelligent enough to measure up...but God says he knows us and does not judge us against some arbitrary standard. The Lord sees his creation and looks upon us with love. How much more should we be willing to love one another if we are so loved by our Creator?

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this: when he is revealed,
we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

1 John 3:2 (NRSV)

REFLECTION

We are living in an angry, hurting world just now. Many people are struggling, and it is often easiest to take it out on those closest to us. It is also easy to become so consumed with our own needs that we forget to help meet the needs of others. These beautiful passages in Scripture remind us we are family. We are created in the image of God, and we are God's children. He looks upon his creation with love. Thus, we must look upon others with that same love and value.

When we disagree, let's learn to show graciousness. When we get upset, let's be slow to get angry. When we see someone hurting, let's see the face of God.

“I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.”

— **Mother Teresa**

When we see someone hungry, do we remember they are made in the image of God, or do we turn our face away? When we see someone hurting, do we know Jesus is with them in their pain, or do we choose to not hear it? When we see the face of our neighbor, do we see Jesus?

It is hard to hate someone or dislike them when we see the image of God in them. It is hard to ignore someone when we value them and see Jesus in their reflection.

Why not practice some praying as you go this week. When you see people, remind yourself that each one is made in the image of God. When you pass them by, say a prayer for blessing or mercy or grace to be upon them, and watch how quickly you will want to know them better.

When you are angry at someone this week, remember they are loved by God as are you. See if that helps you to cool your jets and share some grace.

When you are frustrated with someone, see if you can extend them a little extra patience and remember the patience God has for you.

Maybe Lydia's drawing of Mommy is not so far from the truth. I am made in the image of God but so often I chose to go my own way or allow my selfish nature to obscure the reflection of God in my life. Instead of the beauty God has created in me to shine to the world, I often look like a 'hot mess' and full of scribbles! From the mouths or hands of babes (in this case) we can learn a lot!

We will never be perfect this side of heaven, and so we all look a bit like crayon scribble at times. Thankfully, God says we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and we are beautiful in his eyes. In fact, we are the apple of God's eye. We are valued, loved, and seen as a beautiful reflection of our Saviour. Every moment we have a new opportunity to share his love with this world and shine the light of that reflection to everyone we meet!

With love,
Julia

PRAYER

Loving and precious Saviour,

We thank you that we are made in your image and so is each person that we meet. Help us to remember our value and also the value of our neighbor.

May we seek to build up and not tear down,

May we hope to encourage and not cause pain,

When we see the hurting, the hungry and those who are alone,

May we seek to love, feed and care for each one you place in our path.

Give us desperate compassion and reckless love to care for our

Brothers and sisters in this world. We are a part of your family and your love for us knows no bounds. May we share your extravagant love this day and always.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

