

Sermon Notes for 8/23/26 – Going Meta: Confession and Communion

The Didache (50 C.E.)

“Confess your sins in church, and do not go up to your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of life...On the Lord's Day gather together, break bread, and give thanks, after confessing your transgressions so that your sacrifice may be pure”

Matthew 5:23-24

“When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your sibling has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to them, then come and offer your gift.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Life Together)

“The day before the Lord's Supper together will find the members of a Christian community with one another, each asking of the other forgiveness...All anger, strife, envy, malicious gossip, and conduct to the detriment of one another must have been done away with if all wish to receive together the grace of God in the sacrament.”

1 John 1:8-2:2 (NIV)

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Walter Bruggemann

“Shalom is the substance of the biblical vision of one community embracing all creation. It refers to all those resources and factors that make communal harmony joyous and effective.”

Randy Woodley (How Western Christianity Got It Wrong)

“Shalom encompasses right relationships across all dimensions: between humans and Creator, between individuals in community, between communities of different peoples, and between humans and the natural world.”

Let There Be Peace on Earth (Hymn)

“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony...Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

Henri Nouwen (You Are the Beloved)

“Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all people love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour increasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.”

Beth and Jason's Address for After-Church Picnic:

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