

6th Sunday of Easter

May 29th, 2011

Isaiah 35: 2b-6; Luke 7: 20-22 *Finding a Spacious and Healing Place*

Janey Cole-Morgan and Judith Ann Donaldson

Isaiah 35: 2b-6

*it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible
recompense.
He will come and save you.'*

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;*

Luke 7: 20-22

*When the men had come to him, they said,
'John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, "Are
you the one who is to come, or are we to wait
for another?"' Jesus had just then cured many
people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits,
and had given sight to many who were blind.
And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what
you have seen and heard: the blind receive
their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are
cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
the poor have good news brought to them.*

Reflections from Janey Cole-Morgan

As I begin this morning I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the process of putting together this morning's service. I have enjoyed being with Judith Ann, Susan, Gloria, Lorraine, and Karen (who is here today in spirit). We have all worked together sharing our ideas opinions and gifts. Thank you Rev. Michelle for blessing us and the oil used to anoint today.

The place I come from today are the words of healing-words such as hope, faith, gratitude, forgiveness, assurance, and love of God.

When I sit with each of these words — feelings or sensations are evoked within my body. Feelings— 'gratitude'—for example opens my chest and a sensation of warmth spreads through my body, a feeling of well being and comfort.

'Faith' I feel more in my upper body and down my back into my legs—it gives me a sensation of strength.

'Hope' is a lighter feeling—it is more forward in my upper body—it gives me energy.

'Love of God' is a deep embodied feeling passing through the core of me wide and strong.

These are some of the words, feelings, emotions, spirit that are evoked by reading the passages of today's scriptures.

The gratitude for the love of God the Israelites felt having God be present with them and showing them the way through their difficult times to a new 'spacious place'. A place where there is openness and many possibilities to create.

Isaiah is prophesying the greatness yet to come to the land of Zion. This reading speaks to me of hope, faith and assurance. Assurance is such an important part of our life, the support, the strength we receive from our families, friends and God. This is such an important healing feeling.

We all know when we have been healed or are healing—we feel better-WE FEEL IT!!

We feel calmness, more at one, centered, grounded, content and responABLE—more whole. Our energy is present, our spirit is present.

The last reading from the bible today is considered the response in the New Testament to the prophesying of Isaiah in the Old Testament—The healing of Jesus. No longer are we hoping these miracles will happen they ARE happening. The assurance these things are possible. NOW—Now you are witnessing the blind being given sight, the deaf hearing, the lame walking and the dead raised to life.

These are dramatic healing. We have all heard stories of such dramatic healing, some of us have even witnessed such healing. We know they exist.

People often speak of renewal, peace, a deep relaxation, a sense of well being, gratitude, a new way of looking at things, confidence, empowerment, and spaciousness after receiving healing touch. There are times when a person's pain is eliminated, their swelling gone, their scar healed, their motion restored, their body feeling better than it has in years. When I reflect on this I see new life.

Healing is many things as diverse as we are. It happens in many ways—being listened to, words of assurance, kindness, forgiveness, touch, and being present with each other and God are some of the examples we experience in our life.

Reflections from Judith Ann Donaldson

I am blessed to have many opportunities to share Healing Energy with students and clients of a program through Langara College that has been evolving over the last 10 years. This program bridges the wisdom of the east and the scientific advances of the west.

One of my roles is to supervise students in a residential detox clinic as they interview clients, assess and offer treatments that complement the work that the clients have begun in developing a healthier lifestyle, off drugs and/or alcohol.

My heart is opened as I observe the clients, who enter the treatment room with a sense of trepidation and fear. Their history is often of abuse or drug dependence following physical and/or emotional trauma. There are a myriad of reasons of why they are there. They have come to a point in their lives where they want to step into the future in a healthy way, but have failed so often. They appear defeated. An hour later, after a heart centered treatment of Healing Energy, their demeanor is

completely changed. They are relaxed, smiling, hopeful and can offer to the students, ways in which they can continue their healing. They begin to take ownership of their own healing.

The students, too, undergo a deep transformation over the three years of their training: from anxious, uncertain, questioning not-quite-skeptics, to proficient, compassionate and confident practitioners in the healing arts.

They learn to be solidly grounded, centered from their hearts and aligned to the higher power. A spaciousness develops within the student as it does in their clients. Their life force is activated. This life force can be called “chi”, “prana”, “ki”. I believe it is the Holy Spirit that flows through each one of us, as we step aside from our own selves and allow the healing energy to flow, releasing blocks of energy that no longer serve, thus allowing the body to heal and to be in balance as God intended it to be.

My heart sings as I witness the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, being poured into these beautiful hearts by the Spirit.