

THE HOPE JOURNAL

LEARNING TO LOVE, TOGETHER



July 3, 2022

SHAKE IT OFF

the gospel of Taylor Swift

by Drew Downs

"Cause the players gonna play...
And the haters gonna hate...
Baby, I'm just gonna shake...
I shake it off, I shake it off"
-Taylor Swift

Aside from being **so** catchy, Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" also offers a remarkable example of reorienting perspective. That we don't just need to stop worrying about what people say. Or that things will always be this

way. All of that *is given*. Stop focusing on it! To do the work we're called to do, we need to shake it off and move on. We're called to make music, food, teach, or administrate. But we all share in the love and bring the Good News to people.

So sometimes, it is frustrating, or we get a proverbial door slammed in our face. It always stings. But we shake the dust off. And keep going.

ORDINARY TIME

Summer 2022

WHAT'S GOING ON

*"You know we've got to find a way
To bring some loving here today".*

-Marvin Gaye

Disciples, Apostles, and Saints!

In last week's decision by the Supreme Court in the case of Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the court has overturned the constitutional right to abortion.

I am keenly aware of how difficult this moment is for all people, particularly for the majority of people of faith who believe access to a safe, legal abortion should remain a constitutional right.

I want to commend to you the public statements offered by the Presiding Bishop and our Diocesan Bishop. Both are generous and heartfelt.

I also want to remind us of our church's work in this area. The General Convention of The Episcopal Church has affirmed the need for legal access to contraception since 1930s and to abortion since 1967. So our response as a church has been remarkably consistent.

Our focus has always been on the need to protect and show compassion to the vulnerable, which must include pregnant persons. We will continue to care and counsel those who need help, but the healthcare decisions of individuals must remain with the people who experience the need.

For those who wish to participate, there was a service of lament at Christ Church Cathedral last Sunday at 4 pm. You are welcome to join online at cccindy.org.

With love,
Drew

ORDINARY TIME

Summer 2022

FOR SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 3, 2022

Collect

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Reading

From Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'"

Reflection

Jesus sent out the twelve in this way, to be apostles; bringing healing and good news to the people they meet. Now, he is sending out seventy disciples to do this "throughout the world."

The perfectionist will no doubt read this and get to noticing all of the contours. And the obvious questions that arise.

So, we're to go out, taking nothing, and relying on strangers, right? OK. So, if they are *generous*, then obviously we're all set. But what if they're not? What if they don't want to show hospitality? And what does that make of us? Aren't we freeloading? Shouldn't they have a right to say no?

ORDINARY TIME

I have led so many Bible Study groups in which these kinds of directions in conversation dominate the discussion. We can spend forty-five minutes of our hour talking about all the what-if scenarios and what Jesus's negative depictions reveal about God.

We spend all of this time on what *negative* could be present, that we don't spend much time on what Jesus is actually offering.

He tells them to offer peace.

What happens, how others respond is on them. *You* are to offer peace. And if it's accepted, then offer more. If not, move along to one who will receive it with grace.

And the most remarkable part is that the apostles try it out and rave about it. It works!

I've taken to this practice myself. When I remember, at least. Sometimes the weight of things drives it from my mind. But it is worth considering.

When you enter someone's home, say "Peace to this house!" I usually just say it to myself, though sometimes out loud. Offering peace to the home, the people, or the gathering.

I've done it when going to the grocery store, the mall, or Best Buy.

It isn't only an offering to the suffering. Or the people we know. We don't merely offer peace even to people! We offer it to the *place*. May *this place* be a place of peace. May peace *inhabit* this place. And most especially, may God's peace be known here.

Because there is no place that we will go that doesn't need more peace.

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