



January 8, 2020

***MAY IT BE SAID THAT WE MADE THE WORLD
MORE JUST AND BLESSED FOR ALL ...***

The beginning of the new year puts me in a reflective mood. And here we are at the beginning of a new decade, an untouched landscape of chronological time that stretches ahead of us as we sit amid the pile of retrospective think pieces and “best of the decade” lists. As Betsy and I visited with family for Christmas celebrations over the week of the new year, I caught snippets of voices looking back over the past ten years, chronicling the top books and movies, the political realignments, the great strides to address global poverty and illiteracy, and the forces that worked against these gains.

I wondered how God’s Spirit speaks to us in times of reflection, and future resolutions? The writer of wisdom known as Ecclesiastes, in the Hebrew Scriptures, wrote that there is nothing new under the sun. As we lament the injustice of tyrants, and the persistence of bigotry, we might do well to remember that these evils are not new. When Jesus proclaimed, “the kingdom of God is among you,” the people trusted him, not because all wrongs had been righted, but because the shining of God’s love into their lives was a gift to be cherished and nurtured and shared.

Looking back on the past decade, and all the years before, I am inspired by the kindness and courage and persistence of faithful people. I have known some in my own life, and I have learned the stories of others.

Looking ahead, I see how God can bring out the best in each of us, so that this community of faith may be remembered by our tangible acts of love for our neighbors and for future generations. When this new decade has passed into memory as stories told to the next generations, may it be said that we lived generously, and that, by the grace of God, we made the world more just and blessed for all.

I’ll see you in church.

Peace,

Matt Wooster