



January 15, 2020

FAITH INCLUDES OBJECTIONS

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?”*
Psalm 22:1

The question is inevitable: How can we have faith in God when there is so much suffering and evil in the world? In the midst of earthquakes and wildfires, acts of war and abuses of power, poverty and disease and injustice, how can we have faith in a God who is good?

These problems troubled our ancestors as well. Those who lived at the time of Jesus knew a life that was much more precarious than life in the world today. The rule of tyrants was a given; mortality rates were high and life expectancy low; and most people spent their short number of years in a state of vulnerability.

They objected to the suffering and evil of the world, just as we do. The scriptures are filled with prayers of lamentation, including the one that Jesus prayed on the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” But their objections were understood to be a part of their faith in God, not an argument against faith.

To be faithful, then and now, is to become aligned with God’s work for goodness, justice, and love in the midst of a broken world. To be faithful is to work with God to overcome suffering and evil, creating a peaceable kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

I’ll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister