

Devotion, Week of August 3, 2025

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

This past Sunday we looked at the Acts text in which Peter discovers that nothing that God makes us unclean, including gentiles; and Cornelius, a Roman centurion, discovers that God loves him and sent his Son to redeem him, even though he is a gentile. I'm reminded of this poem of Walter Brueggemann's:

Not the God We Would Have Chosen

We would as soon you were stable and reliable.
We would as soon you were predictable
And always the same toward us.
We would like to take the hammer of doctrine
And take the nails of piety
And nail your feet to the floor
And have you stay in one place.
And then we find you moving,
Always surprising us,
Always coming at us from new directions.
After planting us
And uprooting us
And tearing all things down
And making all things new.
You are not the God we would have chosen
Had we done the choosing,
But we are your people
And you have chosen us in freedom.
We pray for the great gift of freedom
That we may be free toward you
As you are in your world.
Give us that gift of freedom
That we may move in new places
In obedience and in gratitude.
Thank you for Jesus
Who embodied your freedom for all of us. Amen.

May you be surprised this week with gifts of freedom to move into new places of gratitude.

Jeanne