Finding Peace in The Midst of Change
John 14:7

In a time when the world is rapidly changing and the church is trying to navigate the maze of events that are constantly changing, how can we find peace in times such as these? I would like to share with you an abbreviated version of the words I gave to Elmhurst Presbyterian Church this past Sunday. Words about finding peace in the midst of change.

Yesterday can easily become the enemy of tomorrow. Especially when we allow yesterday's fears to be the guiding force that moves us into our tomorrows. When we allow what used to be and what we are most comfortable with to dictate whether or not we will engage the future that is before us, we prevent ourselves from being an instrument of God and are unable to operate in our full capacity. For God did not give us a Spirit of fear; you received the Spirit of adoption, which should tell us all we are Children of God and as His Child, we have no reason to doubt God's future. The future is not ours to control; only to participate in. When we fully understand that responsibility is the effort to give our very best, God's responsibility is the outcome. The future is always God's. The present belongs to us and change will accompany every present whether we are aware of it or not.

What I find comforting about the Gospel and change is that both are choices. Both requires self-examination if you are going to participate and accept either one. Change always disturbs. So does the Gospel. Change will challenge you to become your very best. So will the Gospel. However, unlike change, the Gospel will not leave with questions unanswered. The Gospel will always point you to the answer. The Gospel will never leave you without pointing to a path that will lead to your peace.

As much as the Gospel is about change, it is also about finding peace in the midst of change. The Gospel is about giving you peace in the midst of your storm, in the midst of your heartache, in the midst of your hopelessness. Jesus understood when He announced His leaving how upset His disciples would be. How turned around their world would become. That is why Jesus spoke these words to them, **"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."** These words of Jesus are powerful if embraced. They are life changing if taken in and received. If embraced, the word of Jesus can bring peace to any and every situation we would ever encounter. The peace that Jesus Christ offers is different than the peace the world gives. The peace that Jesus Christ offers is a peace that only His presence can assure. It is a peace that cannot be shaken. It cannot be shaken because Jesus Christ cannot be shaken. Jesus cannot be disturbed, not even surprised. This is the peace that the Gospel brings.

The Good News of the Gospel is that the Living Christ is with us always, in every moment of time. This is why Jesus said, "My Peace" I leave with you. Don't fear, don't doubt. I'm

not leaving you with any uncertainties. The peace I leave, the world cannot give you. The peace that Jesus leaves is not a temporary peace. The peace that Jesus leaves is not about who you are, it is about whose you are.

What makes Jesus' peace different than the world's peace? The world's peace is anchored in the temporary. World peace is anchored in the transient. World peace is anchored in the momentary and the unstable. God's peace is anchored in the Divine. God's peace is anchored in the Omnipotent. God's peace in the Omniscient. Finally, God's peace is wherever you are. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces peace to all who would receive it.

May God continue to bless each of you,

Pastor Cool