

GRACENOTES

IN EXILE

BEING TOGETHER IN A YEAR APART

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Reformation!

The Lutherans among us are cheering, their big day. I suspect that we might have sung the Lutheran national anthem, the one that John Ferguson has played with such aural impact here in the past. Every time I sing that hymn, I vividly hear in my mind the "devil" verse.

Covenant plays a big part in the scripture readings today. With thanks to Sylvia Dunstan;

This holy covenant was made:
God our Deliverance was obeyed.
Seas were parted;
freedom started.
By cloud and fire we were led.
By quail and manna we were fed.
Alleluia, alleluia.

This holy covenant was new
at table with Christ's gathered few.
Blessings spoken;
body broken.
By lifted cup our God forgives.
By Jesus' grace alone we live.
Alleluia, alleluia.

This holy covenant of flame
sears in our hearts the saving name.
Spirit's fire,
our desire.
By wind and tongue the Church is sealed.
By might and power here revealed.
Alleluia, alleluia.

The hymns of Sylvia G. Dunstan
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(Sorry I forgot to credit this the other day)

Let us remember in prayer today*

The Westminster College community
The members, pastors and staff of New Wilmington
Presbyterian Church

* As we remember those we are praying for, pray for their everyday jobs, callings and ministry in this community.

Today we celebrate

Reformation

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46 (PH 259 - the "other version")

Romans 2:19-28

John 8:31-36

etc. In the cover note I have made a few comments, mostly housekeeping details about my internet connection. I have also mentioned that many of you have been sending comments my way and I am grateful for your kind expressions. Some of the comments have been made only to me, others as "reply to all" I chose not to send the e-mail to the classic "Unknown Recipients" but rather with names. What you do not know is that I am sending this to 28 people and I have heard from some of you that you have been passing it on. I have been sending this in three mailings so my dial up connection is happier.

Well, it is Thursday, the great race to the finish begins. It is all down hill from here. If we were there, we would gather to hear the Chamber choir tonight. I always get a bit of dread at this point. In the past few years I have been seen running somewhere to find something to allow a last minute idea to come to fruition. While I love doing that, I find I am missing part of the endings that are happening. I am starting to worry about packing already. I am also longing for the week to not end, to go on with the wonderful singing, worship and friendships.

As we get to the end of the week I have a few thoughts about future things. More tomorrow

Bob M.



The fine print: This is not being done by the 2009 Conference Committee, and therefore is not to be taken as anything official. It is just something I felt led to do. I hope you find it of interest as we are apart this year.

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