

Acts of Trust

A homily preached by Jennifer A. Hudson at St. Paul's on the Green Episcopal Church, January 11, 2018

Psalm 62:1-8 and Mark 1: 1-8

In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen.

I'm not a very patient waiter. Find me in line for any checkout counter and you'll see someone casting anxious glances at the clock. It's not that I think I'll never get my turn, or that other people don't deserve one of their own; it's just that I don't like the in-between period when nothing appears to be happening. I prefer continual movement from point A to point B.

Sometimes, however, I don't move. There are dreams—deep, secret longings—for which I've waited to happen. But they've stayed sealed in a jar. I've prayed for them, expecting God to make things happen since life's realities make my own attainment of these aspirations appear impossible. That may seem like doing something, but those desires remain hibernating.

I began writing this homily during Advent, when the theme of waiting seemed relevant. But now we've breezed through Christmas, the Epiphany, and Jesus' baptism. We've celebrated the Incarnation. What relevance would a homily on waiting have now?

Truth is, no matter when we are in the church year, we wait. All our lives we wait for God to reveal God's self in the stuff of everyday life. Essential to such waiting is hope and trust.

The psalmist, in his waiting for God, trusts that God is his refuge and will deliver him safely from his enemies. John the Baptist, in his waiting for the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit, trusts that Jesus is the one whom God has sent. Both trusted in the Presence, in something happening in that space between point A and B.

Do *we* trust in the Presence? What does it mean to say we *trust* the working of God in our lives? When we say we're *waiting* for God to deliver us from illness or a lackluster career, or to send us the life partner for whom we've yearned, or to grant us peace among nations, that's not the same as saying we *trust*. The trust found in waiting is confident anticipation and active seeking. It means

doing our part and being God's own hands. It does not mean sitting back to let God wave a magic wand.

If there's anything the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus teaches us, it's that God is active, not passive. If we can trust that God moves through the actions we take between point A and B, then things start to happen. Those air-tight jars open. Those prayers get answered.

In *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian of Norwich writes of a Jesus who states: "I am the One who makes you desire, I am the never-ending fulfillment of all true desires."

At the end of our every desire and aspiration rests a longing for wholeness. God desires this wholeness for us. God is that wholeness.

So don't let your dreams hibernate. Take them out of their jars. Plant them. Nurture them. God's there in that space with you, moving you into wholeness as you co-create together. Trust you will be moved to where you need to be.