

## Sunday Morning Reflection from God's Treehouse

### *"Smellin' Coffee"*

#### SCRIPTURE

*Come to me,  
all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.  
(Matthew 11:28)*

#### MESSAGE

This Thursday is the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **The Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner's ordination** on October 24, 1956. Rev. Marg is the first woman to be ordained into **Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church**. A huge event in the life of the church, then, now, and in the days to come. Perseverance, steady faith, and an unquenchable desire to **serve God by serving God's people** in ministry saw Rev. Marg through the long ordeal, uplifting her at each roadblock and giving her strength to follow the **leading of the Holy Spirit**. Fellow Christians were her rocks and scripture was her guide. And in the end, the stained-glass window was shattered, **to the glory of Jesus Christ**. The end was then the beginning. The genesis of a lifetime of serving God while encouraging her spiritual daughters in the faith.

What can we learn from Rev Marg's journey in light of two back-to-back hurricanes, storm-surged homes, piles of debris, and weariness in the face of all the recovery efforts ahead of us, the roadblocks we encounter, and the burdens we are carrying?

Jesus reaches out to us today—both as a congregation and as individuals—with the same invitation he offered to the people of first century Jerusalem as they faced great challenges:

*Come to me,  
all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.*

Maybe rest comes in the form of a friend who stops by to take over dragging branches in your yard for a bit, so you can make a pitcher of lemonade and set out two chairs for a restful chat. Rest might be a good night's sleep after long hours of lying awake worrying about where you will live, or your livelihood, or trying to schedule adjusters and work crews. Or maybe, just maybe, rest looks like sinking into the Word of God with the Bible open on your lap and a cup of good coffee steaming in a hearty mug, giving you fresh hope for the day ahead.

May it be so.

## **SONG**

The song on my heart to share with you this week is *Smellin' Coffee* by Chris Rice. I invite you to [click on the audio link](#) and immerse in the goodness of God.

*Last thing I remember, saying bye to yesterday  
Glad to see it over, pulling covers over my head  
But what were You doing while I dreamt the night away  
'Cause I can tell that something's different  
And my eyes ain't even open yet*

*I'm smellin' coffee  
Birds are singing just outside  
Here comes Your mercy streaming in with the morning light  
My heart is racing waking up to Your smile  
It's a good morning*

*Well, I remember reading You're the God who never sleeps  
And while I've been dreaming You've been singing over me  
Singing about my freedom, waking me up to hear Your song  
And now I can't dance hard enough  
'Cause yesterday is gone, gone, gone!*

*I'm smellin' coffee  
Birds are singing just outside  
Here comes Your mercy streaming in with the morning light  
My heart is racing waking up to Your smile  
It's a good morning*

## **PRAYER** in unity with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

Lord,  
Once again, the news stirs our hearts with anxiety.  
Once again, the winds roar, loud and unrelenting.  
Once again, fear creeps in, making its presence known.  
Once again, our prayers rise, carried to the heavens  
And yet, even now, hope remains.  
Hope in your Spirit, which breathes peace into our souls.  
Hope in your voice, that stills the storms—both outside and within.  
Hope in your presence, ever near, embracing us in your care.  
Hope in the truth that you are our strength, our refuge, and our safe harbor,  
This is our hope.  
This is our prayer.  
This is what we believe.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Ruth*