

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Good Morning Friends!

We are looking at the metaphor of God as Potter. In an ancient world Pottery was not for decorative pieces... pottery was for everyday functional uses.

We have heard the important message that God formed each one of us in a container to be a container through which God pours God's word and love.

We've heard how God's people get distracted by worldly things and lose focus, and the prophet Jeremiah called us to center ourselves on God's will and God's ways.

Last week, the imagery was that of a Potter working at the Potter's Wheel. ... of God as the potter who recognizes that the direction of the clay as it is being shaped is not going to bring out its best qualities and so begins to rework it on the wheel.

We asked...If God is the potter, then who is the clay?

Many times we think of the clay as us...individuals. But a close reading of this text reveals that it is the whole community... the nation (Israel, Judah). So we must also apply this to ourselves as a faith community... and we could measure our nation in light of this text... how well are we following God's will and God's ways?

As long as the clay is continually worked by the potter, it can still be changed and made into something beautiful !.

Again today we hear Jeremiah telling us that God is frustrated with the people's actions...the un-doing of Creation..., but God also knows that the true nature of God's people remains.

And so God keeps on keeping on... faithfully working with what is ready, re-working as needed, but NEVER fully destroying, wiping out everything.

What bible stories come to mind where God gives second chances?

Noah? Wandering in the wilderness until a new generation is ready?

When we feel at our lowest about life, we, too, can feel alone and see life as a wasteland—or little broken pieces—with little to offer.

In our Jeremiah journey this week, God looks at the state of affairs and despairs... and yet... God does not “end it.” Instead, God still calls them “MY people” and, like a parent despite being at their wits end, does not abandon.

*Intro dig story...*

Pottery often has a mark by the maker of it. This is the way ancient fragments are often identified as part of a certain period or tradition of pottery-making.

Listen to this fragment of a story of an apprentice potter who returns to the Mentor’s workshop.

<READ MONOLOGUE>

*Share dig story... parsonage finds...*

And the promise is that God has **something beautiful** in mind for you and this faith community.

May it be so. Amen.