

Little Changes

What comes to your mind, when you hear the word *change*? Does the word send you running for the hills, or does change come naturally for you? I think for me, most of the time, I am not the biggest fan of change, even if they are little changes. After all, it's awfully hard and painful to change habits, comforts, and our views on the whole. I just am who I am. However, to change would mean that I might be called on to be more than myself and that makes me uncomfortable.

Knowing this about myself is difficult, because we know from observation of our world, of our bodies, of society, of religion, that change is always happening. The way church was and the way I viewed God when I was younger is very different now that I'm older. The way I looked when I was young is very different now (*I wish I could go back in time*). The way the trees in my yard looked a month ago, has changed dramatically. Change is the hard reality of everything.

In light of all this, God calls me to change. In the gospel of Mark Jesus proclaims in his first ever sermon, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent (*change/turn around*) and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). I think Jesus got himself in trouble, because he was relentlessly inviting people to change and believe something good about him and God. And I imagine, these changes would make the comfortable, and even his own followers, very uncomfortable. We are called throughout the gospels to change the ways in which we judge and condemn others. Change the ways in which we view God. Change the ways in which we separate ourselves from others. Change our attitudes about generous living. Change the ways in which we view ourselves. Change who we follow. Change our hearts and minds. The

good news is Jesus trusts us to believe something different about our world and about us. That despite our best efforts to resist, deny, and ignore change, with God's help we can change. Maybe faith is trusting God to be Good while everything around us and in us in changing sometimes for the better and sometimes not as such.

On a different note, you've probably noticed little changes in Sunday worship. Over the last several months Pr. Laura and I have been moving from both of us leading worship to only one of us leading. This doesn't mean, that we are there less often. We still continue to both be here throughout the week and on Sundays together. We are still going to meetings, visiting, worshipping, teaching, and leading. However, one of us will be the sole preacher and presider for Sunday worship. We are doing this because our family is changing. One of us will need to be available to both of our children during worship, especially for the really little one that is coming.

And this change is hard for us. We both like leading together, but for now, we have to make the change for the good of our family. We give thanks for the little ways in which God has been changing us as a family, changing us as a congregation, and changing the world through God's Spirit. May God bless the little changes in and around us. Amen.

—*Pastor Matt*