

Mid-week Meditation
October 28, 2020
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New St. James Presbyterian Church

On the drive in to NSJ today, I was listening to a song called “*Heartbreaker*”, by my favourite rock band, Led Zeppelin.

One particular verse caught my attention:

Some people cry and some people die
By the wicked ways of love
But I'll just keep on rollin' along
With the grace of the Lord above

“...rollin’ along, with the grace of the Lord above.”

What a great Reformed, and Presbyterian, idea.

I didn’t say much about it on Reformation Sunday, but GRACE was one of the defining concepts of the work of the Reformers – Luther, Calvin, Knox, and the rest.

It is one of the five “*Solas*” I recited at the beginning, and the Reformed understanding of grace is the heart of reformed theology.

A congregation somewhere put on its church sign:

Grace is not a five-foot, six-inch blonde
Come in and discover this Grace

A bit cheeky, but it makes the point.

The emphasis on grace in the early 16th century was desperately needed – the Church was in turmoil with corruption and a dearth of leadership, life was hard for the common people, and there was much suffering.

The ordinary people of the Church wanted to hear about love and hope, and “*grace-talk*” helped to provide it.

While God’s grace is eternally available and eternally needed, in times like ours now, it is good to remember that God loves each of his children – unconditionally and always.

I am adding a poem that I saw this week:

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED – David Haas

Love has not been cancelled.

Mercy has not been cancelled.

Prayer has not been cancelled.

Attentiveness has not been cancelled.

Goodness has not been cancelled.

Thanksgiving has not been cancelled.

Loving relationships have not been cancelled.

Kindness has not been cancelled.

Music has not been cancelled.

Conversations have not been cancelled.

Learning has not been cancelled.

Poetry and storytelling has not been cancelled.
Courage has not been cancelled.
Mediation and contemplation has not been cancelled.
Painting and dancing has not been cancelled.
Families have not been cancelled.
Community and solidarity has not been cancelled.
Faith has not been cancelled.
Hope has not been cancelled.
And...God's presence with us, has not been cancelled.