

Musical Meditation for March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Bible Reading - Matthew 16:13-23

Music Selection: "Messiah" by Larry Olson

1. Someone's shouting from the desert. Someone's shouting from the sea.
Someone's shouting from the mountain. Someone's shouting from the valley.

Refrain

Mes-si-ah, come and be our King. Mes-si-ah, come and be our King.

2. Someone's shouting from the city. I am young, I am cold.
Someone's shouting from the country. I am lonely, I am old.

Refrain

3. Someone's shouting I am broken. Someone's shouting make me whole.
Someone's shouting come and change me. Someone's shouting, save my soul.

Refrain

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Thoughts

You may find the Bible reading Pastor Carl chose for his sermon "Identity Crisis" for March 29th a little disturbing. Peter gets two very different responses from Jesus on statements he made apparently in appreciation, respect, and concern for Jesus, from his perspective. Jesus's first reply to Peter, after he recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, extols Peter as "the rock" and charges him with building the church. But Jesus's second response seems to be indicating frustration that Peter still just doesn't get it. Imagine the stress Jesus is under as he anticipates the events of the coming days! Peter does not really seem to fully understand that Jesus's kingdom is not of this world, his life and death here were purposed to demonstrate God's love for us and provide redemption with the ultimate sacrifice. While we have a little better understanding of this and its implications today, thanks to the work of many through history, it was radical and revolutionary in Peter's day. It was a very different world and culture -- Jesus' teachings were the starting point in getting humanity to change -- to the way God wants us to think, love, and interact with others. This remains a major challenge to this day.

The musical offering is oriented to the nature of Jesus's Messiahship. If you've been in the congregation a few decades, you may recognize it as a piece sung years back by our middle-school choir, and more recently, as a choral introit.

For our prayers, consider asking for greater understanding of Jesus's message to us, and how we can act on this. We should also continue to pray for healing for those affected by the coronavirus around the world, with appreciation and support for all who are working to minimize the impact of this. And, finally, taking our personal concerns to God.