

Sermon

God Isn't Done with this World Just Yet...

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Habakkuk isn't a prophet we often turn to—his name doesn't echo through Scripture like Isaiah or Jeremiah. Yet today, his words offer us something deeply relevant: a raw and honest lament in the face of injustice, chaos, and confusion. When the world feels fractured, when our own lives seem out of sync with God's promises, we may find ourselves wondering: Has God forgotten us? Is He finished with us? But through Habakkuk's cry, we're reminded that lament is not weakness—it's a sacred act of faith. And perhaps, just perhaps, God isn't done with us yet.

Habakkuk begins not with praise, but with protest. He looks around and sees violence, corruption, and suffering. And instead of turning away, he turns toward God, how brave, how powerful—not with easy answers, but with hard questions: *"How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?"* (Habakkuk 1:2)

This is not defiance. It's devotion. Habakkuk teaches us that lament is not the absence of faith—it's the expression of it. To cry out to God is to believe that He hears. To question is to trust that He cares. And to wait is to hope that He still moves.

We, too, live in a time when injustice feels relentless and hope can feel fragile. We see division, despair, and suffering in our communities, in our families, and sometimes within ourselves. And we wonder: *Has God stepped away? Is He finished with us?*

But the beauty of Habakkuk's story is that God responds—not always with immediate change, but with a deeper invitation. He says, *“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.”* (Habakkuk 1:5). Hang on to your hat!

For those of you who attended the Fall Festival yesterday, did you feel it? Did you see it? It was alive! Smiles, laughter, kindness, conversation, dancing, eating – all together in community. Despite the chaos that seems to want to whirl around us, our superpower is community – coming together and loving each other – enjoying each other's company. And we are going to keep doing just that.

God is not indifferent. He is active, even when we cannot see it. He is working, even when we feel forgotten. And perhaps, just perhaps, He is preparing something in us and through us that we cannot yet imagine.

So what do we do in the waiting?

Habakkuk shows us. After voicing his pain and confusion, he says, *“I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me.”* (Habakkuk 2:1)

He doesn't walk away. He leans in. Some have given up on this thing called church – but not you! You're here – you're building something. You're leaning in. Why? So many have doubts – so many have forgotten – why do we still believe that God can when we can't even if we can't see the vision??

This is the posture of faith—not passive resignation, but active expectation. It's the quiet courage to believe that God still speaks, still moves,

still redeems. Even when the answers don't come quickly. Even when the world doesn't change overnight.

And then God responds again—not with a quick fix, but with a vision:
“Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”
(Habakkuk 2:3)

Friends, this is the promise we hold onto: that God's timing is not our timing, but God's faithfulness is sure. That even in seasons of silence, God is shaping something sacred. That even when we feel forgotten, we are still being formed.

And so we wait—not with despair, but with hope. Not with bitterness, but with trust. Because perhaps God isn't done with us just yet. Perhaps church, and more specifically, this church, still has life and is alive like it was yesterday! Perhaps the story isn't over. Perhaps the very ache we feel is the beginning of something new.

Yesterday I had more than one person approach me and ask, what is this group Tapestry I've heard about? Perhaps, just perhaps we might be building something new!

Our gospel lesson today from Luke brings us to a simple but profound request from the disciples': *“Increase our faith.”* (Luke 17:5)

It's a cry not unlike Habakkuk's—a yearning for more, for clarity, for strength in the face of uncertainty. But Jesus responds in a way that surprises them. He doesn't offer a formula or a grand display. He says, *“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed...”* (Luke 17:6)

It's not about quantity. It's about presence.

Even the smallest seed of faith—planted in trust, watered with respect for the importance of our faith—can move mountains, uproot trees, and reshape lives. And then Jesus shifts the conversation again, reminding them that faith is not just about power, but posture. He tells a parable of a servant who does what is asked, not for praise, but because it is his duty.

Humility...This is a humbling word. It reminds us that faith is not a performance—it's a quiet, steady walk. It's not about being seen—it's about being you – genuine, beautiful you! Walking in faith – even though you might be confused, or anxious, or overwhelmed. Even in those moments, we know grace is possible. We come with our own laments not because we doubt, but because, like Habakkuk, we know God is at the center and will, when asked, remove our doubts and fears. It's not about earning favor—it's about living in response to grace.

So perhaps God isn't done with us just yet—not because we've proven ourselves, both individually and as a faithful community, but because He's still planting seeds. Still calling us to serve. Still inviting us to trust, even when the path is unclear.

When we create spaces to gather in faith, we shine a light that cannot be ignored—a light that draws others in. In a world where many have lost trust in community or grown accustomed to isolation, these moments of togetherness become sacred. They nourish our own spirits and quietly invite others to rediscover connection. And in doing so, we offer a gentle but powerful witness: that no algorithm, no curated feed, no glowing screen can replace the warmth of real presence. Through our humility, our love, and our

shared life, we remind the world that faith is not just something to read about—it's something to see, to feel, and to live.

Somebody asked me yesterday – What is World Communion Sunday? World Communion Sunday is a sacred observance celebrated by Christians around the globe on the first Sunday of October. It began in the 1930s as a way to promote unity and peace in a fractured world, and today it serves as a powerful reminder that, despite our differences in language, culture, and denomination, we are one body in Christ. On this day, we celebrate this sacred feast with churches across continents, symbolizing our shared faith and our deep connection to one another through the grace of God. And how fitting this is, especially in light of our message today. Perhaps a better question is not what is it but why?

When we gather—whether in a small sanctuary, a bustling city, or a quiet countryside—we proclaim that God is still at work. That the table is still open, and the invitation still stands. In a world that often isolates and divides, World Communion Sunday gently calls us back to the heart of community, to the beauty of shared faith, and to the hope that rises when we come together.

It's a living answer to the despair of Habakkuk and the longing of the disciples in Luke. It's a mustard seed moment—small, perhaps, but full of promise. And when we offer these communal opportunities, we shine a light that others can see and feel. We remind one another that faith is not just a private comfort—it's a shared calling. And in that sharing, we find strength, healing, and the quiet assurance that God is still writing our story.

Amen