

Monday, 28 June 2021 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

We are now one full week into summer, and even as last week was the beginning of summer, the days are already starting to shorten. My mind, however, always returns to memories of summer camp at this time of year - games in the ballfield, a pond that felt as cold as ice but absolutely refreshing on a humid afternoon, the sound of the river babbling by or the wind in the trees, and especially the cool of evenings around a campfire with all the classic campfire songs.

Place is important in our lives; where we come from is every bit as important as where we may be going. And it can do a great deal to shape who we are and how we view the world. For instance, Nathanael's question to Andrew in John's gospel, when being told of Jesus as the Messiah, is to ask, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Nazareth was a garrison town for Roman soldiers, and so was not seen as a truly Jewish town and, thus, unclean. Yet, it was this precise worldview which would inform Jesus growing up, and ultimately lead him to preach, teach, and offer healing to not just the Jewish people but to all peoples. And the region of Galilee held such importance to Jesus that, according to Mark's gospel, it was where Jesus would be reunited with the disciples following the resurrection - the return to a meaningful, joy-filled place (Mark 16:7).

As I look again upon the hills and lakes of my childhood, I am reminded of where I have come from, and that informs me where I am now, with you. More than that, it rejuvenates and refreshes my spirit, giving me renewed energy to bring back to our current community. Place is important, and may it always feed us and renew us.

Prayer: Lord, you are the Lord of all creation; all that we see, all that has been our home and the places of our joyful memories, you are Lord of each place. May we, in remembering them, be nourished and uplifted by you for the work to which you have called us. For the glory of your kingdom. Amen.