

Monday, 16 August 2021 - Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

I recognize the blessing it is to have been raised with the understanding that it's important, even a part of our Christian practice, to give back from what I have received. For me, this even includes regular blood donations - something that not everyone can do, or is comfortable doing, but which is meaningful to me. I try to give at every opportunity. The past few times I've donated, I've found myself focusing on the slogan of the American Red Cross: "Give Life."

It still amazes me that giving life is precisely what someone does when they donate blood (and technology today allows you to track that donation all the way to the hospital where it is used!), but it also gets me thinking about the other ways we can "give life." Sometimes it's as simple as an affirming word to someone, a smile to a passer-by, an expression of understanding. Other times it is more profound - sitting with someone in a difficult time, visiting in the hospital (when such things are allowed), serving in the community...there are innumerable ways to "give life" to someone, and each is as unique as you who give. Because we give out of what we have received, and out of who we are in Christ.

In a low moment of his ministry, many would-be disciples were leaving Jesus. In that moment, he turned to the twelve disciples, the first ones chosen, asking, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter, ever the rock, had the only answer. "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:67b, 68-69, NLT).

Even as we have received life in this new day - life with meaning, purpose, joy - we are reminded that we, too, can offer life to those who are in need. Blessings in all the ways you do so this week.

Prayer: Lord, you have given us the gift of Life beyond measure, more than mere survival, and for this we are grateful. May our own lives help bring such Life to others, that they, too, may know such joy. Amen.