The Obstacles of Others

A Lenten Study

During Lent this year, my sermons will be exploring the obstacles that Jesus faced in his ministry. These range from people to concepts, and not all of them are things that Jesus overcomes. No life is without its own obstacles, and hearing the obstacles that others face may allow us to be more empathetic, and also think about the challenges that we face in new ways, as well as how we might interpret scripture or faith in new ways.

This study consists of one scripture drawn from the upcoming worship service, an online video less than 20 minutes long, and a couple of questions for reflection. You are welcome to engage with this material in whatever way you would like and at any time. If you are interested in discussing anything that comes out of this process, please email me to indicate your interest and you will be included in the planning of a discussion session, likely on ZOOM, during Holy Week.

We pray that all burdens are lifted, but until that time may we hear one another with love.

--Rev. Scott

Week Two

QueerAsCat

“QAC77 Legal Name Change || Non-Binary Gender Markers || ""Deadnames"" || NEVADA”

Link: <https://youtu.be/UV3DZ4T79CU>

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35 (Optional: Mark 6:14-29)

QueerAsCat is the video diary and essay collection by non-binary creator Vesper. In this video, Vesper details the experience of legally changing their name after many years of living abroad. There are many bureaucratic obstacles in order for them to have ID that reflects who they are as a person, by the authority of law and policy. They also talk about the term “deadname” to refer to a name that a person, usually a trans person, no longer uses. Throughout, Vesper discusses many obstacles a non-binary person faces, legally and socially. Many people and groups that have a say over how others can and can’t describe themselves.

Hearing Vesper’s thoughts, how might we compare the words of Jesus and Jerusalem’s treatment of prophets to the treatment of people attempting to change their name? Who makes decisions about how things are allowed to happen, in the scripture and in Vesper’s account?