

Today's Devotional is provided by Rev. Lamika Weiss

The Kingdom of God Is Here and Now

The Kingdom of heaven is like treasure buried hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Matthew 13:44



This kingdom is for right now. The glory and love of God, manifested in Jesus born of Mary betrothed to a man named Joseph, did not stop there. God still manifests it to the world. Jesus spoke often of the Kingdom of

God with authority and intensity, saying it was not far off; indeed the Kingdom is for us to grasp today. Paul reminds us in Second Corinthians that the day where salvation becomes real to us is today.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about the kingdom work of the church, saying "The church that does not exist for others is no church at all." As people of redemption and promise, we exist for others.

When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we're praying for a few things all at once. We're asking for God's power to work in creation. We're asking for God's grace to come to us by the Spirit so that we can live surrendered lives. We're asking for Christ to return soon, in his glory, that we might enjoy eternity with him, and we're requesting far more than that. When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we're praying that others be brought into the Kingdom, by grace through faith, and we're asking to be used to bring them in.

How do we live as kingdom people in Beloved Community? Jesus dispatched his disciples to proclaim the Good News, and to support others. Today, he is calling *us* to proclaim the Good News, love our

neighbor, and rescue the oppressed—to be the Church, living our professions, caring for the needs of those around us, existing for others.

Let us pray . . . *As we journey in Lent, let us be reminded we seek to live more fully in the Kingdom, knowing that through the presence of God we are in that Kingdom here and now. Amen.*