Called to Words

Patrick Hicks

13 May 2013

Genesis 2:19-20

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

--this passage recalls the power of words...
......to name objects and creatures, yes, certainly...

Each for us has been given a name, after all...

Words hold power....we know this...we understand this...
......to name something is to offer it an identity...

......but that’s the just the beginning of the power of words

For me, I’m intoxicated by the power of the words....
......words can heal us
......words can wound us
......words can bind us together (“I love you”...saying “I do”)
......words can lift us...words make reality

The miracle of speech and words never cease to fascinate me....

I mean, think about...

[talk about lungs, tongue, idea traveling through air into your mind]

......words are a form of hypnosis...
......words connect us to each other...
......words crack open the hidden universe of our minds...
......and allow us to live inside each others’ skulls.

......I was drawn to the power of words...or called to words...a long time ago
Words rule me, as they rule all of us….
But…I’m mesmerized by the magic trick of stringing words together

…how is art, and raw emotion, created from spills, of, ink, on a page?

I believe we take words for granted…
…we often do not take enough care to find the right words
…that’s a writer’s job of course…to find the right words…to tell the truth

I thought I might read four poems here today…
…they all illuminate our world in some way…

The world is illuminated through words, after all

1. Since Finals Week begins soon….thought I’d read this,
   “Student” by Ted Kooser

2. Not all poems are serious….that’s good to remember, I think…
   poems and stories should remind us of joy and laughter…
   …poem by Billy Collins…. Requires some audience participation
   “Hangover”

3. Words remind us that we are connected…words cut through silence
   …and also fear….one of my favorites…Naomi Shihab Nye…
   She is Palestinian-American
   This is “Gate 4A”

4. I started with the words of God…and how naming the world makes it real…
   …it seems appropriate to end with a poem called “The God Who Loves You”
   By Carl Dennis
MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invocation

Prayer

ALL: God, you call your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

“God of the Sparrow” ELW #740

Scripture

Genesis 2: 19-20a

Sermon

“Called to Words” Dr. Patrick Hicks, English

Hymn

“When Long before Time” ELW #861 vv. 1-3, 5

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

South Dakota Synod Assembly, ELCA will be June 7-8 at Our Savior’s. Our student congregation may send one male and one female delegate. Please see Pr. Paul or Pr. Ann if you are interested. Preference is given to students from South Dakota.

The Common Ground/Outreach Bonanza will be held out on the Green on Friday, May 10th from 6:00pm to Saturday, May 11th in the morning, to celebrate a great year of fellowship and get excited for next year; ALL are welcome! Friday evening we will be playing games, singing songs, enjoying a bonfire, eating snacks and star gazing. Big group events will end that evening but the option is available for people to spend the night on the Green; Augie Outdoor Club will be providing some camping materials (sleeping bags, etc.) but consider bringing your own sleeping bags/blankets/etc.

Taize at Pine Ridge, May 24-27. Any students interested in going to the Taize International meeting at Pine Ridge in May are encouraged to meet with Pr. Paul. We want to spread the word widely about this rare and exciting weekend of solidarity with our Native neighbors! Sign up sheet is on the Narthex table. Students interested in attending the May 24-27 Taize weekend at Red Shirt Table please sign up in the narthex, or speak to Pr. Paul.

Want to learn more about Taize??? Come to the chapel for conversation and worship on Wednesday, May 8, 7-9pm. Brother John and a team of friends from Taize, France will be present as we learn about what Taize is and the impact this movement is having on young adults around the world. All are welcome.

Bread for the World’s National Gathering will be held June 8-11, 2013, in Washington DC. In addition to inspiring workshops and advocacy training, there is an opportunity to meet with our South Dakota congressional delegation to personally discuss hunger issues locally and globally. BFW-SD would cover transportation, registration fees, and lodging. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please contact Nancy Olson, 605-332-4350, s10andyw@sio.midco.net for further information and to request an application before April 15, 2013. You can also find information about the event at www.bread.org

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Tues., May 14th Koinonia, 10 am
Wed., May 15th Holy Communion, 10 am - Peg Preston; Collegiate Chor.
Fri., May 17th Morning Worship, 10 am - Camp Counselor Commissioning
Sun., May 19th Morning Worship, 11 am - Megan Kremin, Sr. Spkr.

The chapel is available for prayer and meditation during finals.
MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

Invocation

Prayer

ALL: God, you call your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

“God of the Sparrow” ELW # 740

Scripture

Genesis 2: 19-20a

Sermon

“Called to Words” Dr. Patrick Hicks, English

Hymn

“When Long before Time” ELW #861 vv. 1-3, 5

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

South Dakota Synod Assembly, ELCA will be June 7-8 at Our Savior’s. Our student congregation may send one male and one female delegate. Please see Pr. Paul or Pr. Ann if you are interested. Preference is given to students from South Dakota.

The Common Ground/Outreach Bonanza will be held out on the Green on Friday, May 10th from 6:00pm to Saturday, May 11th in the morning, to celebrate a great year of fellowship and get excited for next year; ALL are welcome! Friday evening we will be playing games, singing songs, enjoying a bonfire, eating snacks and star gazing. Big group events will end that evening but the option is available for people to spend the night on the Green; Augie Outdoor Club will be providing some camping materials (sleeping bags, etc.) but consider bringing your own sleeping bags/blankets/etc.

Taize at Pine Ridge. May 24-27. Any students interested in going to the Taize International meeting at Pine Ridge in May are encouraged to meet with Pr. Paul. We want to spread the word widely about this rare and exciting weekend of solidarity with our Native neighbors! Sign up sheet is on the Narthex table. Students interested in attending the May 24-27 Taize weekend at Red Shirt Table please sign up in the narthex, or speak to Pr. Paul.

Want to learn more about Taize?? Come to the chapel for conversation and worship on Wednesday, May 8, 7-9pm. Brother John and a team of friends from Taize, France will be present as we learn about what Taize is and the impact this movement is having on young adults around the world. All are welcome.

Bread for the World’s National Gathering will be held June 8-11, 2013, in Washington DC. In addition to inspiring workshops and advocacy training, there is an opportunity to meet with our South Dakota congressional delegation to personally discuss hunger issues locally and globally. BFW-SD would cover transportation, registration fees, and lodging. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please contact Nancy Olson, 605-332-4350, s10andyw@sio.midco.net for further information and to request an application before April 15, 2013. You can also find information about the event at www.bread.org

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Tues., May 14th Koinonia, 10 am
Wed., May 15th Holy Communion, 10 am - Peg Preston; Collegiate Chor.
Fri., May 17th Morning Worship, 10 am - Camp Counselor Commissioning
Sun., May 19th Morning Worship, 11 am - Megan Kremin, Sr. Spkr.

The chapel is available for prayer and meditation during finals