

It happened right over here during a Monday evening rehearsal of a vocal ensemble

- Bob, a military man, was totally prepared “it’s 911 time”
- Within minutes, a first responder, an ambulance, then the advanced life support folks
- Emergencies can strike anywhere, anytime, to anyone

Characteristics

- loss of life
- loss of property
- loss of control

In conversation with John a couple of weeks ago, I said “I don’t work well in emergency situations”

- His response, training
- I still say “also aptitude” – influence of personality type

I with everyone in the room are grateful for the presence of first responders and all emergency services personnel in our community and want to say that out loud

Emergency services central in the 9/11 spotlight in New York City, Washington and elsewhere during the terrorist crisis of 2001

- The whole point of terrorism is to create terror in a population
- The maximization of fear becomes the goal of social engagement – a horrible scenario

Thank God for those brave men and women, who worked to save lives, to recover the dead, to prevent further destruction, to provide relief, and to bring stability to a chaotic situation

Such a decadal remembrance does pose some questions for me, and possibly for you

- Is the world careening out of control - historians will say - NO
- Is security a naive myth - according to recent CBC reports, NO
- How does a loving God fit with any of this - we’ve been here before

Three passages from Holy Scripture

- Ecclesiastes - What is normal experience?
  - a time for everything, including chaos and calm
- Revelation - What does our future look like?
  - a future vision of a perfect new world
- Luke - In the mean time, how should we act?
  - A Jesus-story, a parable, the Good Samaritan
  - relationships of care create peaceful societies
  - peace-making, a reasonable, practical and helpful role for humans
  - Some words from American commentator, Wendell Berry

WHAT LEADS TO PEACE?

What leads to peace is not violence but **peaceableness**, which is not passivity, but an alert, informed, practiced, and active state of being. We should recognize that while we have extravagantly subsidized the means of war, we have almost totally neglected the ways of peaceableness. We have, (in the United States

)for example, several national military academies, but not one peace academy. We have ignored the teachings and the examples of Christ, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and other peaceable leaders. And here we have an inescapable duty to notice also that war is profitable, whereas the means of peaceableness, being cheap or free, make no money.

#### WHAT PRACTICE LEADS TO PEACEABLENESS?

The key to peaceableness is **continuous practice**. It is wrong to suppose that we can exploit and impoverish the poorer countries, while arming them and instructing them in the newest means of war, and then reasonably expect them to be peaceable.

#### WHAT LOCAL PRACTICES CREATE PEACE IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY - ONE EXAMPLE - LOCAL FOOD

Starting with the economies of food and farming, we should promote at home, and encourage abroad, the ideal of local self-sufficiency. We should recognize that this is the surest, the safest, and the cheapest way for the world to live. We should not countenance the loss or destruction of any local capacity to produce necessary goods.

1. We have come a long from the disaster commonly known as 9/11
2. We can go further in the practice of peacefulness, in emergency and ordinary situation
3. We each have a part to play as we live in, engage with and contribute to our common life together
4. We need God's grace to accomplish these good and great things