

“A CHURCH IN THE WORLD”  
Meditation  
The Rev. Damaris D. Whittaker

Scripture

Matthew 10:40-42

Psalm 13

*“And who ever gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”*

This spring, I audited a class at Hartford Seminary entitled “Breaking the Rules: Growing the Main Line Church.” One of the first things the professor said was, “When you become part of the church, you take off the bib and you put on the apron.” What an image!

If we would have been in a stadium, everyone would have been yelling “gooooooooooal.” (Certainly, we are in the middle of the World Cup, if you have not noticed).

That statement stayed with many of us. In fact, it made it into social media as many of my colleagues posted it on Facebook and Tweeter.

What the image brought to our minds, perhaps, was the possibility of a church that understood that once you became part of the body of Christ, it is not about us being fed, but about us serving others.

I would add that, in serving others, we will be fed.

In the gospel lesson this morning, Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of those little ones...none of these will lose their reward.”

What a small courtesy, to give a cup of water. We may think that discipleship is difficult and requires great sacrifice. Sometimes the practice of discipleship resides in small deeds.

Although, according to Jesus, there are no small gestures. Everything we do in faith has great significance.

This morning, we are pleased to have with us the Executive Director of Hands on Hartford, Barbara Shaw.

Through our programs and partnership with Hands on Hartford, along with others in the city, we are able to work together to do what might be considered small deeds in this city full with great needs.

Barbara will share with us this morning about our partnership and the great things that Hands on Hartford is doing in the city.

I pray that we do not underestimate acts of kindness, and move forth in taking off our bibs, and putting on our aprons. Amen.