

First and Center
Pastor's Blog
January 29, 2019

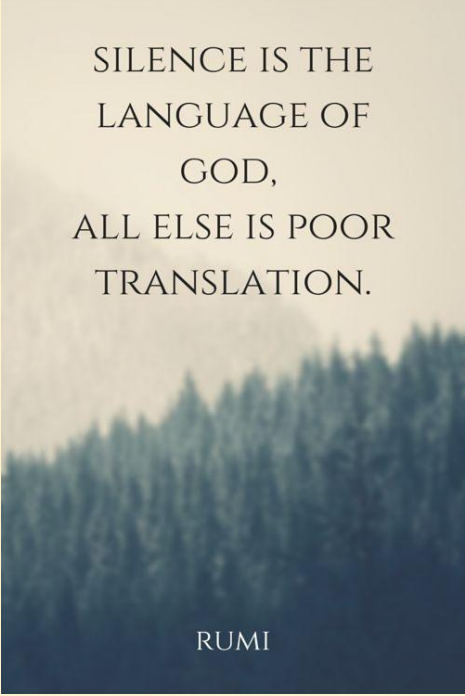
"If I speak in all the languages of earth and heaven, but do not love, all I'm doing is making noise." My paraphrase of I Corinthians 13:1.

I'm working with I Corinthians 13 this week as I prepare for worship on Sunday. This chapter is used too lightly, I think, most folk thinking it belongs in a wedding service as a sweet reflection on how we hope the happy couple will love one another. But often those readings skip the first couple of verses in favor of getting to the "love is patient and kind" part.

There's a lot of noise in our world right now. Some of it is actual noise, people yelling at each other. We see that on the news too much, from rallies and demonstrations and congressional hearings. Some of it is virtual noise: tweets, social media posts, angry emails, spam. In every human language, people perfect the art of being noisy to one another in person or on screens until our eyes and ears hurt, and our hearts and spirits hurt worse. And, often, that makes us want to throw noise right back at whoever is noise-ing us. Which, of course, only makes more noise!

This week, I am going to try to reduce my contribution to noise which is not love. Which is harder than you think, especially for a social and political progressive in these times! I want to think and pray hard on how I can sound like love instead of noise. How does love sound? Let's find out.

~ The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,
Transitional Minister



SILENCE IS THE
LANGUAGE OF
GOD,
ALL ELSE IS POOR
TRANSLATION.

RUMI