

FIRST AND CENTER
Pastor's Blog
June 28, 2018

Two different songs have been running through my head this week. The first is from Don Henley, 1989, "The Heart of the Matter." The verse that keeps popping is this one:

*These times are so uncertain
There's a yearning undefined
People filled with rage.
We all need a little tenderness,
How can love survive in such a graceless age.*



Though 1989, it feels like he could have written it today. I was talking with some friends this week who all said, in one way or another, that the world has become so "mean," and that we find ourselves sometimes succumbing to that mean-ness. We are more impatient, easier to anger, more apt to take offense, less likely to be grace-full, even though we self-identify as Christians. We find others around us to be doing the same. It's like the whole society has lost its way.

Into the midst of that this week came the singer and late-night host, James Cordon. If you have never seen one of his "Carpool Karaoke" clips, you have an adventure before you. He drives around with a singer (pop, Broadway, opera, whatever) and they talk and sing. This week, the clip making the rounds is a longer one, as Cordon drives around Liverpool with home-town boy Paul McCartney. Here is a link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjvzCTqkBDQ>

People have been describing this as the most gentle and loving piece of art they have seen in a while. One song that gets lifted up during the ride is "Let It Be." He talks about that song coming to him in a dream involving his late mother. "Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be." The original Mary said this to the angel Gabriel when he said to her that God wanted to be born in human flesh from her womb! She said, "Let it be to me according to your word." And so, it was.

How can love survive in such a graceless age? Mary once said, "*Let it be.*" Through death and resurrection, love survived in that graceless age, and can in ours, too, even through us, cracked vessels that we are. Let it be.

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse
Transitional Minister