

Body of Christ: Legs

Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 12:1-2

Center Church

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A week ago, while I was on the Bushnell Park route of my morning run, my Fitbit fell off my wrist somewhere and I wasn't aware of it until I got back to my apartment. I didn't have time to retrace the whole route, but I did some looking, and I did not find it. Someone probably picked it up. It was pretty old (they don't even make that model anymore), so I wasn't all that deeply upset, just a bit annoyed because it also functioned as my watch and my only other watch was in Hamden, so...

First world problems.

Then I began to think about the weirdness of counting steps. And a great quote by Albert Einstein: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts." I started to think that making my steps count was actually considerably more important than counting my steps. Where do my feet travel and why? If I run 5 days a week to keep my legs and body strong, for what purpose do I want strong legs, heart, and muscles?

Then I read the Isaiah text for today, and the Hebrews as well. There it is. The feet of one who brings holy good news are beautiful. The feet of one who reminds us that God rules ultimately, and that God's wish for us is peace, are beautiful. The legs that run the race that is **set before them**, the legs that persist in running beside Jesus and going where he would go and loving who he would love, which of course, is everywhere and everyone, but especially those less loved by the world. Legs that do not turn aside to shout hate and march to bring hurt or harm.

You know that poem about footprints? Where someone dies and reviews their life with Jesus. They see two sets of footprints in the sand and are comforted that one of them was Jesus walking beside them in hard times. Yes, sometimes we all need that comfort.

But what about looking at it a little differently. What about looking to see where our footprints travel with Jesus and don't go off in directions that are ultimately harmful to us? It's not all on Jesus to keep us walking on the right path; it's up to us to follow the trail of love laid out for us. It's up to us to, as the writer of Hebrews says, take off of our shoulders the weight of anything that gets in the way of keeping up with Jesus. Whatever that is for you.

There's actually a joke about that footprints poem that kind of continues the story. The person asks Jesus about a place in the journey where it looked like one set of footprints and something being dragged behind. "What was I pulling?" the person asks. Jesus laughs and says, "Those footprints are mine. That's where I had to drag you kicking and screaming to keep you on the right path!"

Yeah, I've been there. I bet you have, too. This week, think about where your legs and feet are taking you. After worship today in our Annual Meeting, we need to think about the same things and remember the Einstein quote! Think about where we are called to be the body of Christ in that place and time. That is our race and Jesus is running beside us to remind us of who we are. Make your steps count, beloved, make your steps count. Amen

P.S. I bought a new Fitbit, but I don't wear it on Sundays because I think one day a week the work of counting should be laid aside!