

GBUMC COMPASS

A Weekly Worship Guide

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Sunday, July 17, 2022



"Friends in Christ exercising love, hope and grace to enrich all lives."

Sermon Recap

The prophet Hosea teaches us, albeit in a strange way, that the relationship between us and God is fluid and volatile, not because God is unfaithful, but because we are, at times. The need to rebuild and recommit to the relationship between us and God is always present (not a bad thing). Thankfully, it is our understanding of God's grace that helps us to see how that repair is ALWAYS initiated by God's desire for true transformation. While it requires us to *want* to be transformed, God does the transforming. Ultimately, we have to understand that God's way is not one of punishment. That may be our way, but abuse of God's own people is not God's means. Instead, God's grace meets us where we are, repairs the relationship, and calls us to discipleship, once more.

I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim, for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.
-Hosea 11:9 NSRV

I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon. His shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like that of Lebanon. They shall again live beneath my shadow; they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom like the vine; their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. Hosea 14:4-7 NRSV

Applied to My Life:

1. Reading these ancient texts can be difficult, especially since they are disturbingly out of date (i.e. exploitation of women). Prophets were much like modern day pastors: They preached from a place of deep faithfulness – not perfection. Take time to read Hosea and look past the imperfect human stuff to see if you can find where God is *really* speaking.
2. God is *always* desiring to repair God's relationship with you, but still needs us to desire the same. Examining your relationship with God, where you desire that relationship to be repaired? What needs strengthened (*prayer life, trust, WWJD lifestyle, etc.?*)

Other Worship Notes I Want to Remember: