



## SUNDAY SERMON

# Leakers of God's Love

---

Good Morning Friends. Today's an exciting day at St. Columba's. It's Rite 13 Sunday! A time when we honor those amongst us who are leaving the realm of childhood and moving ever more closely to the land of the teenager. A land overflowing with loud music and hormones.

The transition from child to adolescent is a mixed bag, am I right? If I asked every person in this room what life was like when you were 12 and 13 I'm sure I'd get a host of answers ranging from – these are/ those were the best years of my life to - those were some of the hardest years of my life. I fall on the spectrum of – I wouldn't go back and relive my middle school years for a million dollars. My body seemed to be betraying me, friendships were so complicated, and my crushes never seemed to realize how awesome I truly was. Living through middle school once was more than enough for me. But I know this is not the case for a lot of people. There are plenty of folks in here who loved adolescence. In fact, I'd like to do a quick poll with you adults this morning. Who here loved being 12& 13? And are there any folks in here that are like me and had a less than thrilling time during those years?

I don't know where you wonderful young people fall in your level of enthusiasm for this exciting and challenging time of life, but my prayer is that each of you are living lives that are full of joy and fun - at least the majority of the time right now. That's not just my wish for the Rite 13ers in our midst but for all of you here this morning. My prayer for every person in here is that you are living a life that is full of joy and fun at least for the majority of the time right now.

A life of fun and Joy? Amy that seems both shallow and overly-ambitious at the same time.

Friends, to live a life brimming with joy is not a small thing. It's a worthy aspiration. In fact, these days living a life full of fun and joy can almost be considered an act of defiance, of protest. A joy-full life declares for all the world to see that you are courageous and happy – a subversive notion in a world where entire industries depend on people being made to feel unhappy.

The world around us is really good at sending us messages that we're not enough – that we're not smart enough, successful enough, popular enough, that we don't look the right way or we don't sound the right way. We are bombarded with subtle messages that want to convince us that we are not good enough and that our life would be so much better if only... if only I got a promotion, if only I

*continued*

### DATE

Rite 13 Sunday  
Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019

### PREACHER

The Rev. Amy Molina-  
Moore

got straight A's, if only my bank account was bigger...if only's are very good at robbing people of their joy. Living a life of joy takes our life back from the if only's and transforms it into a life of gratitude and freedom.

The world tends to drill down a vision for life that is primarily competitive and discouraging. This was true in Biblical times, like it is today, and it is in this context that Paul writes the lovely words that we got to hear this morning.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul is writing to a group of people who haven't fully caught on to the message Jesus was trying to teach them. The church at Corinth was full of people trying to live good and right lives, but in their quest to do what they thought was right for religious people to do, they ended up behaving horribly to one another. They were super competitive with one another about who the better Christian was. They assumed that God played favorites and that those who were skilled and accomplished were loved by God more, than those with less skills and accomplishments. The rich Christians were selfish and showing off their wealth while not at all noticing the poorer Christians in their midst. Here's the rub - None of this was done to be mean intentionally. It's just that they were still figuring out what it meant to be Christian together. They just were continuing to behave the way they always had behaved. In the ancient world it was customary for rich people to ignore poor people, so they just continued that pattern within the church. It was customary for people to feel pride over their accomplishments and to assume that their good fortune meant that God loved them more than other people - in fact, they took that one step further and just assumed that all of God's love was based on people's level of accomplishment.

Notice any parallels? - Sometimes intentionally or unintentionally we internalize the message that God's love and people's love is contingent on how much we accomplish, or how well we perform. In the midst of that lie - then as now, Paul points us to the truth. Nothing in this life is more important than Love and God's Love is the beginning and the end of each of our story's. Friends, God is not like anyone you know. God is not persuaded by your accomplishments; God doesn't care how smart you are and "whether you understand all mysteries and have all knowledge." In fact, God isn't even motivated by the size of your faith. Your life, each breath you take, each day you greet - you are surrounded and hounded by God's love. This is what Paul is talking about. This is the reality that Jesus was pointing to when he walked this Earth. God's love is woven into the very fabric of our existence. We can't get away from it. Those of us who call ourselves Christians, are those who are awake to the love of God all around us. Paul's words this morning remind us once more that we are submerged in God's love. There is no distance between this love and ourselves. As individuals so soaked in the love of God, we can't help but to go out, leaking God's love all over the world. Dear friends, Our imperfections are not gaping holes we need to fill, our imperfections are divine holes that leak out the love of God. This is not a faulty design, God's love can never be contained for the more love you leak, the more love you hold inside. Amen.