

Bruton Parish Episcopal Church  
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Rev'd Chris Epperson, Rector  
Sunday, June 27, 2021 (Proper 8)

Beckie and I were talking about the Offertory anthem at the 11am service for today. It was written with healing in mind. It was also written with Bruton Parish in mind, as it was commissioned by our church. The text, "The Source of All Healing," was written by our own Angier Brock. Healing is an action, and it is personal, while being universal.

It made me reflect on the structure of music. We often think that the notes are music. The notes are important, but the space between the playing or singing of notes is important, too. The space between notes matters. The space between notes makes music, well, music.

One of the key features of Mark's Gospel is easy to miss. We often look at a particular story and think of the details of that story, looking for the point, but there is always more, life between the lines.

The text we just heard is a healing story. A leader of the synagogue has a sick daughter. This fellow pleads with Jesus to heal her. Jesus responds. The young girl dies and Jesus heals her, bringing her back to life. It is so easy to think that that is the narrative, but there is more to it.

Mark gives us a Gospel sandwich. There is something just as significant that happens in the space between Jesus' response to Jarius and Jesus' healing his daughter. Another healing takes place in the middle of it all. An unnamed woman touches the fringe of Jesus' garment and is restored to health.

This sandwich has an arc to it. Jesus responds to need. In the middle, he is the source of health, unintentionally. Power goes out from him. Then, he heals, intentionally.

What does this pattern say to us?

Perhaps, it means that there is always more going on than we recognize. We have an intention. We have a plan; and yet, in the middle of it all, something else is happening too.

Maybe, I am supposed to see myself in the woman that touches Jesus' garment, living in this in-between time. Jesus is going about his ministry of health and wholeness, and I find what I need right in the middle of it. Maybe I occupy the space in between.

Maybe as we go about our lives seeking righteousness or even seeking something more mundane, without even recognizing it, something holy happens beyond our awareness.

I am tempted to suggest that we look for the in-between, that we seek to be aware of what is happening in between our intentions.

Maybe, we should simply follow another musician's counsel. As Paul McCartney wrote, "Let it Be." Perhaps, it is enough to know that it is happening.