

“Great Things”
Joel 2:21-27
Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
Homecoming 2020
Rev. Summer Hough

Joel 2:21-27 NIV

21 Do not be afraid, land of Judah;

be glad and rejoice.

Surely the Lord has done great things!

22 Do not be afraid, you wild animals,

for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.

The trees are bearing their fruit;

the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.

23 Be glad, people of Zion,

rejoice in the Lord your God,

for he has given you the autumn rains

because he is faithful.

He sends you abundant showers,

both autumn and spring rains, as before.

24 The threshing floors will be filled with grain;

the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

25 “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—

the great locust and the young locust,

the other locusts and the locust swarm—

my great army that I sent among you.

26 You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,

and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,

who has worked wonders for you;

never again will my people be shamed.

27 Then you will know that I am in Israel,

that I am the Lord your God,

and that there is no other;

never again will my people be shamed.

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Since Rev. Summer Hough is preaching for Homecoming, I thought I could still offer a scripture reading and some questions for us to ask as we commemorate Pollocksville Presbyterian Church's 152nd Anniversary!

I want us to sit with that number for a bit. 152 years is a long time for a congregation! Yes, some congregations are older. I worked in one that was founded before the French and Indian War during Colonial Times in our nation's history. There are plenty of congregations that are younger. However, there are many churches that do not make it to 150 years or 152 years! And for that, let us take a moment and give God thanks for the work that God has done in this congregation.

The prophet Joel is speaking to a people in exile. There has been heartache. Homes have been destroyed. The conquerors have dictated what the Israelites can do and not do. There is not much left for the people. Yet, these words of compassion are spoken from the LORD to the prophet Joel to the hurting people.

Some questions to consider:

1. What is happening before these verses today? Notice the section headers in your own Bibles for clues.
2. What happens immediately after verse 27? Do these words sound familiar? You will find them in Acts 2:17-21.
3. What are the first words spoken in today's scripture? How often have we heard those words throughout the Bible and in our own lives?
4. Even in our present circumstances where we feel as if the wind has been knocked out of us and there is little growth, what does God promise to the people in these verses, especially verses 22-24?
5. For our ancestors in exile, why would the promise in verse 21 "for the LORD is about to do great things" mean anything for them? What about us in 2020?

6. How will Joel 2:21-27 minister to you in these uncertain days?

In the name of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer. Amen.