

## Rev Rita Message July 11 2021

Imagine a faith community of compassion caring, sharing God's love in the world.

In a book called *Compassion*, three writers- Donald McNeill, Douglas Morrison, and Henri Nouwen did just that. They wrote: *"Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human."*

What a powerful description of compassion! Did you know that compassion is the cornerstone of every faith tradition? The movement out of yourself, to the point of being concerned with the sufferings of another, is the beginning of the movement toward God and toward one another. When asked about how to achieve joy in life, the Dalai Lama said: "If you want to be happy, practice compassion. If you want others to be happy, practice compassion." Wise words from a very wise spiritual teacher.

Imagine a faith community of compassion caring, sharing God's love in the world. May we find ways to commit ourselves to lives of compassion being passionate about our love and concern for others, opening our hearts and lives to others with real enthusiasm, being agents of positive change in people's lives, and following Jesus' example of self-giving love.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.