

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 7, 2005

I Kings 19:9, 11-13; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 9:1-5; Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Preacher: Sister Donna Maria Moses

In the First Reading from Kings, God speaks to Elijah in a whisper and asks a simple question, “Why are you here?” This question, elegant in its simplicity, compels contemplation. Imagine God asking, “Why are you here?” Where is here? What is here to God who is everywhere? Here—in this universal time and space? Here on this earthen sphere circling the sun, 2005 years after the crucifixion? Here—in this time and place where we have been sent on mission to serve God and one another? God whispers to us “Here”—in this moment—in a voice barely audible like a lover resting his head on a pillow nearby. Here—in this brief moment of calm between passionate flurries of activity.

Now. Can you hear it? “Why are you here?” whispered in love by God who never wearies and never sleeps. The question is a reminder that God is always here although the din and commotion of the world sometimes make it hard to perceive it. All creation reaches out to God in good times and in bad. In sickness and in health all creation longs to be one with God, and God leans close with the gentle breath of a kiss. The precious love of God enfolds us faithfully every moment of our lives. We do not differ in the reality of God’s love for us, but we do differ in degrees of seeking to know it, to remember it, and to respond in kind. Today’s Gospel reminds us that even when the knowledge of God’s love is muffled by stormy winds of worldly concerns, drowned out by human doubts, or separated by the wide gulf of our own disbelief and lack of comprehension—God still whispers, “Why are you here? It is I, have no fear.”