



SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021, MORNING MESSAGE

REVEREND EDWARD DUNN

The title of this week's sermon is "Seven Words" except it will take far more than seven words to get the message across. The reading from Mark places readers in the middle of a controversy between the religious leaders and Jesus' followers. The question at the center of the controversy is, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders...? The debate between them and Jesus will concern what defiles a person with Jesus declaring that it's what comes out of a person that defiles.

The letter of James warns us to bridle our tongues for "religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (James 1:27)

The seven most deadly words said in church are likely these: we have never done it that way or it's corollary, we have always done it that way as an excuse to cling to the "traditions of the elders" at moments when the Spirit invites us to hear and see the new thing God is doing in our midst. These assumptions made in these statements have been challenged since the beginning of this pandemic as we've learned to embrace new definitions and ways to be the church. May we embrace attitudes that add one more word to those phrases "...however"

Blessings,  
Edward