



*The Anchorage*  
*A Contemplative Ministry*

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*Come away...*

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Baptist  
Jason Loscuito  
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Dear Friends,

Several years ago I was asked to preach at a friend's installation service in Louisiana. It was a small, rural church that was close to two group homes for adults with mental retardation. The church had found that the group home residents enjoyed having their own service on Sunday, and buses brought them to the church at 10:00. I was asked to preach at both the 10:00 and the 11:00 services. And so I did.

The service for group home residents had by far the more lively worship. Everybody wanted to have his or her own hymn book, even though most could not read. Everyone had an announcement to make, "My sister is taking me to Disneyworld next week," "We had ice cream for dinner last night," and "Did you see my new red shoes?" All were grateful for something wonderful. I was blessed beyond measure by being with these saints.

I have no idea what I said in my sermon, but they were attentive. The end of the service was my favorite part. I raised my hands in blessing as I said the benediction. Imagine my joy and surprise when every one of them raised their hands and blessed me! Well, why not?! I may have needed a blessing more than any of them. And who says the preacher is the only person who can bless another?

When I think of that Sunday morning, I am reminded of the blessings that I have received through the years at The Anchorage events. Days spent walking around the grounds at Mepkin Abbey, contemplative times at a Spring or Fall Quiet Day, hours of silence. All of these events and more have raised hands of blessing to me in my walk of faith. Do you want and even need a blessing today? Sign up to attend an event with The Anchorage or make a monetary contribution so that someone else can attend one.

Eastertide blessings for you,

Martha Ebel  
Participant, Pledger, Former Servant Leader (Board)  
The Anchorage

