



This Church
June 5, 2024
Lisa Heckman

A note in the margins from one of the many meetings I've attended pointed me to Ann Weem's book of Christian poetry called *Searching for Shalom*. Surprisingly, the book opened to the very poem mentioned! Maybe I'll feel called to share it some time in the future, but not today. I paged ahead and found this one instead. May it offer you a glimpse of the church I hope for ... and that I see us already becoming.

THIS CHURCH

We don't pretend to understand the mystery
of what goes on in God's Church.
We just know we feel a pervading spirit of love
that reaches into the niches of all of us
and pulls us out into the open,
free and alive and belonging.
We believe this spirit of love exists because
God's spirit lives within this Church,
this unity of persons trying
to be the Good News.
We see this Church as a circle of persons
holding hands . . . and dancing . . .
supporting each other, accepting each other,
loving each other.
Each person in this dancing circle
is facing outward . . . reaching into God's world,
listening for the whimpering,
watching for the hurting,
willing to offer a cup of cold water
in [God's] name.
Sometimes they need the water;
sometimes you need the water;
sometimes I need the water.
Being a part of the Church
means knowing that
the cup is always filled
in [God's] name.

"This Church" by Ann Weems, *Searching for Shalom*,
Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, © 1991, pg. 54.

Grace and Peace.

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