

Children's sermon: March 7, 2010
"Here I am, Lord"

Kids, you have been so gracious with your e-mails and texts ...
A couple of you commented: "Pastor Don ---- you are so nice to play songs we enjoy ... how about playing your favorite song?" Well, today is the day ...
My favorite song ... played by our fine organist and pianist, Mike Hefter ---- here we go!!
Sing along, if you'd like: "*Here I am, Lord, send me!!*"

Yes, I love that song. We sing it almost every week!@!!
It's funny ... most people think this song is about a prophet ... someone like Moses.
But ... Fred's friend SANDY ... SHE THINKS IT'S ABOUT HER!@!! Sandy delivers mail ... and when she hears the words "here I am, Lord, SEND ME!!" ... she thinks God has chosen her to send "good stuff" to people.

Sandy delivers the mail during the week ... but on Sundays ... she likes to deliver "fun stuff" to kids who need a little love in their lives. Last Sunday ... Sandy goes around ... trying to find a church. Sandy believes in God ... but she really isn't any particular kind of religion.

Anyway ... she drops by this church.
She knocks on the door ... but nobody answers. She notices the doors are locked ... they even have duck-tape all over them. Talk about not feeling very welcome!@!!

She knocks again ... and hears a voice.
"What religion are you?" Sandy responds: "I'm not sure ..."
Are you Lutheran? ... maybe. Are you Catholic? ... could be. How about Jewish? ... sounds good.
Finally the voice says: THIS CHURCH ISN'T FOR YOU!!
Too bad for you ... Sandy says, as she leaves ... your bucket is going to be empty!!

A while later Sandy comes by another church. Look at this place ----- the doors are just falling open!!
She hears a voice. Are you Lutheran? ... maybe. How about Catholic? ... it's ok with me. Jewish? ... good choice.
Are you confused, Sandy????? ----- I guess so.
Well ... come on down!@! ... WE SPECIALIZE IN PEOPLE LIKE YOU!!
Sandy smiles: I will be delivering a special bucket to you!!

This morning ... there is a bucket outside the church with the closed doors.
Here it is ... and ----- IT IS EMPTY!!
There is also a bucket outside the church with the doors hangin' open -----and ... IT IS FULL ...
OVER-FLOWING, in fact.

When you open your doors ... when you open your hearts ... when you accept people for whom they are, and not try to turn them into what you want them to be ----- *THEN YOUR CUP IS FULL!!*

See this bucket ... it is full ... full of "stuff" for you.
What are these????? ----- **LEFT-OVERS!!**
I keep giving things away ... and my closet just fills up!@!!@ Such is life, right????? ----- the more you give, the more comes your way. It's the way God works ... it's what Jesus teaches.
Help yourself ... in fact ... take 2 things ... IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE.