

Sermon by Rev. Lusmarina Campos Garcia
On Matthew 11,2-11
Geneva, 12 December 2010
(video version available [here](#))

Good news are words, gestures, actions that have the capacity to bring a smile to somebody's face.

Yesterday, when I was calling some of you to help with the worship this morning, I got a smile every time I heard a 'yes'. Then in the e-mails I sent, I told you it brought a smile to my face. Calson wrote me back and said, "guess what? You also brought a smile to my face by asking me to participate in the worship." When I read his answer, I smiled again. Good news are not necessarily news aiming to solve big problems, to resolve a substantial part of our lives; they are simple words or gestures with the potential to make us happy, if only for a moment.

Sometimes we have difficulties to share good news because we seem to be unable to see it, to hear it. When we are suffering or facing a problem or agonizing under a doubt, we become blind and deaf for what is good and beautiful in life. Still, goodness and beauty are at our disposal; they do not leave us. How much space do you give to what bothers you? How much space do you give to what makes you laugh? I know that sometimes it is not easy to keep a balance. But we do have to try. Pain and anguish can consume us. Suffering and sadness have the power to possess us. But so has joy. And we have the power to choose it. Rubem Alves says that "Joy is a source of eternity emerging into time". It is always there, just waiting for the opportunity to burst into our lives breaking through sadness in order to bring a smile to our face. Grab the opportunity!

In the Gospel reading this morning, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.'

Jesus says, Go and tell John what you hear and see. What good news have you heard? What good news have you seen?

You are invited to come to the microphone and tell the good news you have heard and seen, whether great or small, serious or good for a laugh. Then go and help construct the Gospel track we are making around the altar. Because we hope that many people might have good news to share, we ask you to keep your good news to 30 seconds. We have a train signaler to help us. After 20 seconds the signaler will give you a caution sign. (The signaler demonstrates this.) That means you have 10 seconds to go, so one sentence more. At 30 seconds the signaler will give you a stop sign. (This is demonstrated.) However you can stay longer to help construct the track. Please don't be shy, and come already to the microphone so we don't have to wait for people to walk here. We have time for about 20 people.

After every four persons we will sing "and heaven and nature sing."

This morning we are all proclaimers of Good News; we are all called to bring smiles to each other's faces.

Please, come!