

A background graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent handprints. The hands are in various orientations, some pointing up, some down, and some to the side. The colors are muted, including shades of beige, light grey, and pale blue. The overall effect is a sense of collective action or support.

Doug's Reflection

06-14-26 THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Here we are back in the Season of Ordinary Time. My challenge is for us to take the word “extra” and put it in front of “ordinary,” turning the time ahead into “extra-ordinary” time. I believe one way we can do that is to let go of our idolatry. Most of us think of idolatry as a pagan bowing down to an image carved from wood or stone, reciting mysterious incantations, and carrying out peculiar rituals. But Saint Paul in Colossians says idolatry is much more familiar to us than we realize. All it takes is simple greed (“Thou shall not covet” rings a bell!) Does that mean it is wrong to want better things in life? Of course not. The question is: what is the heart attitude that makes us want any of these things? In the personal hierarchies we make, what winds up ahead of God? And we are all self-made. No one forces greed on us. We make our own gods, and they compete with the one true God.