

I believe in Diversity
by Rev. Rick Pryce, Lunenburg Lutheran Parish

I believe in God
Profligate creator
Who delights in limitless variety

I believe in Jesus
who was born among the poor and the suspect
Who lived among the exploited and oppressed
Who told stories of the Divine in every daily life
Who interacted with, and welcomed, all:
Foreigners and occupiers, indigenous and immigrants
Religious zealots and religiously indifferent
Sex workers and enslaved persons
Racialized women and swarming children
The sick, the lost and the questioning
Insisting that Divine Presence was the reality in which they existed
And which their lives reflected

Inevitably “the powers”
(The status holders and authority wielders and control dispensers)
Could take the challenge longer
They reimposed their self-serving vision
Of supremacy and dominance and privilege
By committing a legal lynching on this threatening Presence
In order to re-establish their “normal”

But the Divine has never been “normal”
And has never conformed to “normal”
Jesus returned
Bringing New Life to life
Re-creating a wondrous variety
In which even death is embraced in the Divine

I believe in the Holy Spirit
Holy Agitator, Divine Provocateur
Who is found among the racialized and the sexualized
The misogynized and the de-prioritized
Who speaks through outsider, refugee, stranger, poor and “other”
Who calls all into a communion community
In which all are welcomed, all are valued
And none are expendable

Who promises that this way of being
Will become creation’s way of being
Forever
Amen.