

September 22, 2015

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

The Pope has landed! The Pope has landed!

Although, unless you live on another planet, you probably already know that.

If you work in downtown DC, you might have had a half-day today. Tomorrow, you may be working from home. How is it a whole city, the seat of the most powerful nation on earth, can shut down because of one man? Why is everyone so excited about his arrival? What is it about this guy?

I think we all sense a genuineness about him. In an age when people are so skeptical and cynical about church, this Pope seems different. Rather than spending time with Kings and Presidents, he hangs out with prisoners and refugees, the hungry and the hurting. On a recent trip to Brazil, his motorcade took a wrong turn and got stuck in the worst part of town, so Francis got out of the car to be with the people... you know, the poor and the homeless, the ones whom most of society wants to forget or ignore.

That sounds a lot like Jesus to me.

And, I think that is exactly it. This Pope offers us hope and reminds us of what Jesus was all about, what church should be and could be all about. As the Pope, himself, said:

We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.

Yeah, that's it.

See you in church,
Andrew