

Fifth Principle...Proceed with Caution
Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

In 2016

You convulsed with rage

You were so mad

You put on your pink pussy hat

And marched.

270 stole your vote

And the cry went up

Abolish the electoral college!

...and then came the deafening silence.

In 2013

When the Supreme Court

Gutted the voting rights act

You publicly fumed.

...for a minute.

This is the odor of

The democratic process in action.

Democracy

That you hold so dear.

The same democratic process

In action that gave us

The conservative justices in the first place

And the democratic process

That assured the electoral college

Would balance ...and preserve

Slave state and free.

Embedded in the democratic process

Is the idea of

Majority rule

Where majority opinion,

Priorities

Concerns

Values

Vanities

Fears

Biases...

All carry the day

Remember...

It is not the democratic process

But solo "executive action"

That interned the Japanese

Or dropped the atomic bomb on human beings.

It is also not the democratic process

That freed the slaves.

It seems that the consequential choices

About bodies and rights

Are too much for

A pretty but flawed democratic process to bear.

Clearly, it will take more than the democratic process

To end 157 years of federal lynching

To stop the Equal Rights Amendment from twisting in the wind

And to end the debate on women's autonomy over their sacred bodies.

Proceed with caution:

For this is sometimes the "white" of conscience

And the "abuse" of the democratic process

Within our congregations

And our society at large.

This kind of democracy does us all

Grave harm.