

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

# AGAPE FROM AFAR

*Adjusting to life amidst Coronavirus*

A WORD  
FROM  
PASTOR  
JILL

As a way to remain connected during this time apart, I will be putting together a weekly newsletter with a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday scripture passage. I hope that by taking a few moments to reflect on the Word of God and pray, we can feel grounded and connected to God and to one another during this uncertain time. *-Pastor Jill*



The scripture for this week is from Colossians 1:11-20. In this passage, Paul is offering a prayer to the church at Colossae. The passage begins with reminding the church that their strength comes from God. Paul encourages the church to endure struggle with patience. Paul reminds the members that Christ is in charge of the church. Paul concludes by acknowledging that Jesus reconciled everyone and everything to God through the cross.

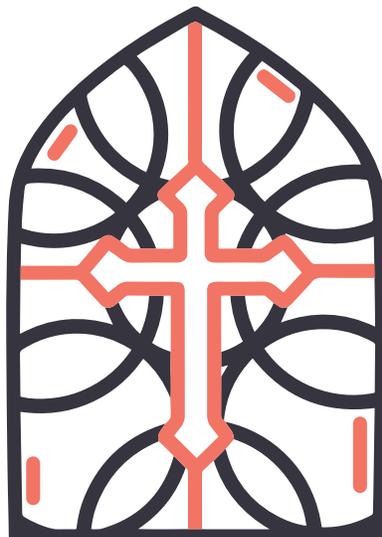
Reflect more on this passage on the following pages.



**Read the passage:**

Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.





**Reflect:**

1. How do you feel about being encouraged to "endure everything with patience"? What in your life is hard to endure with patience?
2. How do you reconcile Paul describing Jesus as having the first place in everything, with the humility Jesus practiced while on earth?
3. What do you think it means in verse 20 when it says, "God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things"?
4. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

**Pray:**

God, we thank you that Jesus took this same journey ahead of us. When we lose our patience or think we are alone, remind us of your presence. Encourage us in our weariness and in our joy. Amen.



## **A Reflection on Gratitude** **especially during times when it is difficult to give thanks:**

To pause and give thanks  
is to pay attention to the parts of living  
that bring delight,  
turn us from what destroys  
and make life rich -  
whatever else may also be.  
This practice of intentional remembering  
helps realign our perspective  
with the whole truth of our lives.  
When bitterness,  
or fear,  
or grief,  
become the whole view,  
gratitude points us to  
the beauty-also  
and the love-anyway  
and the simple-pleasures that surround.  
Our steady companions in life's complexities.  
We honor the Sacred,  
we honor each other,  
we honor the earth and our creaturely companions  
when we remember this web of life that holds us.  
All its terrors.  
All its gifts.  
Gratitude paired with denial  
about all that calls for mending and repair  
will not satisfy for long.  
But gratitude that is alive to all that is,  
a sibling of sorrow, cousin of rage,  
so aware of the ache and the loss and injustice -  
but still seeing cause to pray:  
"thank you, thank you, thank you"  
is to feast on the nourishment of God.

From:<https://enfleshed.com/pages/on-gratitude>

What Pastor Jill is  
**reading:** *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

What Pastor Jill is  
**watching:**  
*The Queen's Gambit*

What Pastor Jill is  
**listening** to:  
*December* by George Winston

**Please reach out to  
a staff member if  
you need financial,  
emotional or  
spiritual assistance.  
As always, we are  
here to help!**

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# Daily Gratitude Calendar November 2020

Each day in November,  
lift up in gratitude  
someone in your life  
who....



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Mentored you in your profession	<b>2</b> Helped you grow in your faith	<b>3</b> Gave tangible help during a difficult time	<b>4</b> Founded an institution or movement that is important to you	<b>5</b> Showed tough love	<b>6</b> Coached you as you grew in skills and confidence	<b>7</b> Led a group that was significant in your formation
<b>8</b> Treated you like a member of their family	<b>9</b> Introduced you to grief by their loss	<b>10</b> Wrote something that deeply moved you	<b>11</b> Died before you could reconcile or reconnect with them	<b>12</b> Introduced you to a group/ community	<b>13</b> Reminded you how to see the world like a child	<b>14</b> Advocated for you
<b>15</b> Showed you something key about yourself	<b>16</b> Gave you a tangible object that continues to inspire you	<b>17</b> Acted as a parent or grandparent to you	<b>18</b> Lead in a way that fostered trust and cooperation	<b>19</b> Took you someplace life-changing	<b>20</b> Make you feel seen in a time/place that you felt invisible	<b>21</b> Trusted you with difficult but important knowledge
<b>22</b> Created art that speaks to your soul	<b>23</b> Let you ask questions	<b>24</b> Pointed out your gifts	<b>25</b> Introduced you to a hobby	<b>26</b> Prayed for you	<b>27</b> Embodied values you aspire to	<b>28</b> Disagreed with you but still loved you
<b>29</b> Supported you through a low point	<b>30</b> Did something for others in death that they couldn't have done in life					

