

MAY 6, 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 John 14:1-14. In this passage, the disciples ask Jesus to show them the way. I find great comfort in the fact that the disciples who spent so much time with Jesus by their side, still struggled to find their own path and purpose. When we wonder how to help or what to do next, we can remember that Jesus' own disciples had similar questions. Jesus responds to the disciples' doubt by encouraging them to follow him, saying, "I am the way, the truth and the life." When we are in doubt, we are reminded to follow the ways of Jesus which will lead us to love and serve others.

Take some time to reflect on John 14:1-14 on the following pages.



Read the passage:

John 14:1-14

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.



Reflect:

1. Jesus says, "Do not let your heart be troubled." What is troubling your heart today?
2. Jesus uses the word "believe" multiple times in this passage. What does it mean for you to believe in Jesus?
3. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

Pray:

Remind us, O God, when we cannot see the path, Jesus is the way. Encourage us when we cannot trust the voices we hear, Jesus is the truth. When it feels like death is closing in, help us to remember, Jesus is life. When we are afraid, fill our heart with your words, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Amen.



We have heard about going back to a "new normal" when this is all over. When we are able to go back to some sense of normalcy, it's important that we don't forget some of the lessons we have learned during this time. Here are some things I've learned that I hope I don't forget:

- Essential workers are undervalued
- Our community is connected globally
- Life is fragile
- Masks are not just for Halloween
- Human activity significantly impacts the health of the environment
- Gathering across screens is not the same as in person
- We can adapt when necessary
- I have amazing family and friends

What have you learned about yourself or others during this time that you don't want to forget?

If you have a financial need during this time, please reach out to a staff member. We can privately and confidentially help.

What I have been
reading:
Loving Frank Novel by
Nancy Horan

What I have been
listening to:
The Greatest
Showman Soundtrack

What I've been
watching:
Nadiya's Time to Eat

REMINDER:
Please fill out the
US census, if you
have not already
done so. The census
helps communities
receive needed
resources.

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