

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

# 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 Mark 9:2-9. In this story, Jesus is transfigured and his clothes glow dazzling white. Moses and Elijah also appear on the mountain top beside Jesus. The disciples who are watching this miracle do not know how to react. We often don't know how to react when we experience miracles, either.

Reflect more on this passage on the following pages.



**Read the passage:**

**Mark 9:2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



**Reflect:**

1. Peter, James and John saw Jesus on the mountain top. Where do you see Jesus?
2. Jesus tells the disciples about what is coming, but gives them (Peter, James, and John) an experience of his glory. How do you think this experience might have impacted the disciples?
3. Have you ever had an experience of God that changed you in a meaningful way or that you maybe didn't understand more fully until later in life?
4. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

**Pray:**

Holy God, you have revealed the glory of your love in Jesus Christ, and have given us a share in your Spirit. May we follow faithfully revealing the light of your gospel wherever we go. Amen.



Soon it will be a year since Covid changed everything. As we reflect on this past year, it is important to ask ourselves:

- What do you miss that you took for granted a year ago?
- What is one thing that you have/experienced now that you will miss post-Covid?

Below the Lutheran Minister and author, Nadia Bolz-Weber, prays about all the things she took for granted a year ago and hopes for the future.

Dear God,

A year ago, I didn't know what we were all a bout to lose. All those Sundays last February that I chose to skip church, I did not know that I would go so long without the Eucharist.

I did not know that hug I gave my parents, that meal out with friends, that concert ticket I passed on, would be the last one for a year or more.

Forgive me for complaining about my travel schedule in 2019. I was busy taking my entire life for granted. Lord, why didn't I appreciate then what I long to have back now?

I like to think that when the things I long for return to me, that I will appreciate them more this time. But you and I both know that's not likely.

So today I am asking you to help me practice. Help me practice appreciating today what I may long to have back once the pandemic ends: Slowness. So much time for cooking new soup recipes. Mornings spent, not on one more United Airlines flight, but with my beloved. The ability to watch 7 seasons of a TV show in one week.

Help me savor now what I will miss when it's gone. Help me practice being the person today I regret not being in the past. Amen.

What Pastor Jill is  
**reading:**  
*Walking in the Wilderness*  
by Beth A. Richardson

What Pastor Jill is  
**listening to:**  
*Creation* by A New Liturgy

What Pastor Jill is still  
**watching:**  
Cobra Kai on Netflix  
(Season 3)

**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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