



*During the time of separation due the Covid-19 pandemic St. Mary Magdalene will not hold any in-person gatherings, including worship. If you would like to give me a call, though, feel free! I am happy to visit by phone at 204-930-7253, or "live" via Facebook video messaging, What's App, or Zoom - just let me know and I'll be glad to set that up with you. Take care and stay safe! Val*

May 14, 2020

Good morning friends!

It's been awhile since I wrote. (Sorry about that!) My absence started with a week off, and I think may have continued with a combination of busy-ness, and uncertainty. When anyone has asked Paul or I how we are doing, he has tended to say "I am finding this very strange," and I have tended to say "I am doing fine, really."

But in the last week I have started getting very lonely. (That probably means I should have been writing to you!) And yesterday, I (who hardly ever dream) had a dream which seemed full of my own internal angst.

In my dream, I was going to warm something up in our microwave, but when I pressed the time that I wanted it to cook for, the time just didn't appear. This lack of an end time was very unexpected and also seemed very dangerous, like the microwave would never stop. So, I opened up the door, without pressing pause. Now this is something that I don't do often, but I have done occasionally. I know that if you open the door on our microwave, it stops operating immediately. But not in this dream. It was not stopping, so where the lack of a stop time on the machine was dangerous before, this was worse. There was danger shooting out of the microwave at an alarming rate! I panicked for a couple seconds, and then tried to shut the microwave door, but I kept getting hit with those dangerous microwaves! They were shocking me or "getting me" in some way, over which I had no control.

Thankfully for me (and also you!) my dream ended there. I am no psychoanalyst, but the connections between that microwave in my dream and our present reality were too clear to miss! We **don't** know the "end time" of this virus, and many of us are starting to wonder if it will actually end. We do hear in a variety of ways that danger is shooting out at us in ways over which we have no control. And sometimes trying to keep safe, shutting the door, creates its own kind of pain, as we live apart from each other, some of us suffering economically, as well as spiritually or psychologically.

That is at least part of our lives these days.

But thankfully it is not all. Last Sunday, in the Gospel, Jesus reminded Thomas that he is the way, the truth and the life, even when we don't know where we are going. This Sunday, Jesus reminds us that he will not leave us orphaned, but that we will see him, because he is in us, and we in him even when the world doesn't see him. (Read John 14 to find these lovely words.)

We don't know what will happen with our world, or our church, or our own lives... But God travels with us, Jesus makes his home with us and for us, the Spirit breathes life into us all along the way.

So pause, take a breath, and gently place yourself in God's hands.

The Collect for this coming Sunday promises for us riches of faith and love and God's presence beyond what we can imagine. Hear and rest in those. And breathe...

***Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination.  
Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things,  
may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

It is good to be back with you.

God's peace to you all,  
Val