

March 12, 2021

Dear Friends,

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday. It's time to spring our clocks forward.

There's lots of talk right now about what happened one year ago. So, I will jump in with a different focus. One year ago, we were in the middle of a Sunday teaching series on the Lord's Prayer. The scripture text was "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 5:10) In a first Zoom gathering, we remembered who actually wears the crown: Christ, Lord of heaven and earth. His rule and reign changes everything. Hope is secure in him.

May we never lose sight of Jesus the Christ. You may wish to take a pause and allow this song - [Knowing You](#) - to centre you on him. Feel free to send me your go-to worship music to centre on Christ.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

If you are familiar with the show *The Walking Dead* you will have seen hordes of zombies, called "the dead," stumbling through fields and city streets, their bodies moving with no evidence of an interior life. (This is not a show recommendation, just an acknowledgement that it exists, has been popular and is in its eleventh season.) "The dead" in the show provide a horrific image of a disinspired body. I think this can function as an image to remind us of what happens when we walk away from original created connection and try life without God. It's impossible. Without the living Spirit, the breath of God, we are dying people making our way toward death. We pull the plug on ourselves.

But how do we reintegrate? How does what's in heaven take up residence on earth again? How do the material and spiritual reconnect? How are our physical lives reanimated by the Spirit of God? How do we breathe God's breath? I think that's what Nicodemus, one of the religious elite, was trying to figure out in his nighttime meeting with Jesus. One might think a religious leader would know how to come alive spiritually, but his discrete visit and the questions he asks indicate he's in the dark on the subject.

It is quite easy to develop a good-looking – even religious – exterior life while being numb, dying, and disconnected from eternal life. We know what it's like. John 3:14-21 offers an answer to Nicodemus' question. We become spiritually alive, born from above, by entering a trust relationship with the one who is both fully human and fully divine, Jesus Christ. As God incarnate, altogether physical-spiritual one, Jesus put to death our death so that we could live his life. This is a major intervention by God. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Please [email me](#) for a Zoom link to the online service.

*Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.

Please [email our family ministries pastor](#) for a link to grades 4-6 Sunday School.

Next Prayer Gathering: March 23 at 11:30 a.m.

You may [submit your requests for prayer](#) for our prayer team to remember during Tuesday's gathering.

Marriage Support

For those of you who feel like the walking dead in your marriages, please do not suffer alone. If things are excruciating and you want to let someone know, you are welcome to reach out. We could look for a couple in the congregation to discretely function as listening and praying partners and discuss how to find decent marriage counselling or other support. You may also find help and support in *The Seven Principles of Making Marriage Work* by John Gottman.

Growing as Followers of Jesus

To help you build in time-tested spiritual practices to enlarge your lives, I leave you with [a link to this month's Discipleship Lab](#) by the Navigators. Jeff Clochesy, former Sunnysider and Navigators staff, will be "sharing historic practices to experience the nearness of Christ."

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor. 13:13)

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)