

April 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

There was a time several years back when I played Andrew Peterson's [Be Kind to Yourself](#) on repeat. It seems timely again. It's a song about grace. Favour is God's atmosphere; we are loved, lovable and worth loving. From the starting point of encounter with God's grace, we may extend it to ourselves and others. May God help us through this season when grumpiness threatens to replace grace.

### **Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

We are on week five of our 7-part Vision series. Here's a summary:

Week One: From the time Mary Magdalene met the risen Christ and told her friends, "I have seen the Lord," generations of people have shared the message and person of the living Christ right up to the present.

Week Two: We remain open to encounter with the risen Christ, believing that he wants to capture our hearts and change our lives. All vision begins from the starting point of love for Jesus. Followers of Jesus, follow Jesus.

Week Three: As followers of Jesus, we get caught up in God's redemptive story. With Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd as our guide, we trust God and pursue all good things for ourselves and others.

Week Four: God's good vision is for the healing of humanity. He renews our memories (from guilt and shame to forgiveness and friendship), renews our motives (from being the best to living from love), and renews our mission (toward humble, repetitive, patient, life-giving compassion for people).

This week and next, we will consider two key virtues as we continue to seek God's unique vision for Sunnyside: first, patience and second, humility. On Sunday, Pastor Miranda will consider Jesus' teaching in John 15:1-8 as she explores the practice and virtue of patience. Good things take time. We can get impatient and impulsive, thinking we must produce good fruit. Meanwhile, Jesus says our part is to remain, or abide, in him. The timing and nature of good outcomes is God's responsibility, not ours.

Please [contact me](#) for a Zoom link to Sunday's service.

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

### **Remain (or abide) in Christ**

As we learn to patiently remain in Christ, you may be interested in one of the following three apps. The apps are called Daily Prayer, Lectio 365, and Pause. In Wesleyan tradition, we talk about "means of grace," which are vehicles or ways through which we encounter the living Christ. Two primary ways to meet with God are through the hearing of Scripture and response to God through prayer. These apps are designed to support you in your desire to draw near to God.

### **Sunday School for grades 4-6 (May 2 at 11:15 a.m.)**

Please contact [our family ministries pastor](#) for a link to Sunday School for children in grades four to six.

### **Next Prayer Gathering: May 4 at 11:30 a.m.**

Please [email the prayer team](#) to let us know how we may remember you in prayer.

### **Out of Control**

We are way out of control these days. The truth is we always were. Current circumstances are apocalyptic, meaning the curtain is being pulled back on reality. We are jarred into realizing that we

were never in charge. In the apocalyptic literature of Revelation (5:6) we see a dramatic scene, “a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, *standing at the center of the throne,*” and soon after this scene the seer, John, looks and hears “the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand.” They gather around the throne along with the living creatures and elders, in a loud voice, saying, ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!’” (5:11-12)

God’s power is different than our notions of power. He is wholly revealed through the crucified Christ. The one at the “centre of the throne” is the one who gave his life for us and for our salvation. We are invited to let go of our false notions of control, to trust and to honour him. He is trustworthy.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)