

May 28, 2021

Dear Friends,

Where is God? Who is God?

As I watch the news, hear your stories through Zoom prayer times or outdoor walks, and as I work weekly with young people in mental health crises, I am struck by these words in response to the question, "Where is God?"

[Dorothee Soelle] argues that Christian faith...answers this question in two ways. The first is by negation: God is not the executioner. God is not the instigator. God is not a bystander. The second part of the answer is an affirmation: God is the sufferer, just as God suffered in Jesus, as pronounced by the Roman centurion, 'Truly, this was God's son.' God is the one who is suffering *here, now*. Therefore, the question 'Where is God?'...must mature into 'Who is God?' which is the Christian domain and sees God present in the sufferer. (Mark Slatter, *Insights While Suffering: With a View to the Cross and Resurrection*, vol. 345 of Series VII Theology and Religion, American University Studies (New York: Peter Lang, 2015), 75.)

May we look the crucified and risen Christ full in the face to know who God is. God is with us and for us. And may we follow God's lead, not hiding our faces from suffering, but rather looking into the face of the suffering other, doing our part in the power of God's Spirit to be present and to be a vehicle for help and healing.

This week, as I was hurting and overwhelmed, one of you sent me [this blessing](#). I thought I'd share it. We need the repetition: He is for you. He is with you.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

We continue this second Sunday of Pentecost in a series on the letter to the church at Galatia. As we learned last week, the Galatians were a people group who'd crossed from what we know as modern-day France to an area corresponding to modern-day Ankara, Turkey. They were physically huge, professional soldiers for hire. Paul, likely due to physical illness, got stuck in Galatia for awhile. While there, he did what he always did: he proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ to the Galatians. N.T. Wright explains that, "according to Paul, Jesus' death and resurrection mean that this God is now building a new family, a single family, a family with no divisions, no separate races, no one-table-for-Jews-and-another-for-Gentiles. In Christ, everybody belongs. The God of Israel wants to be known as 'father' by the whole world." (*Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians*, London: SPCK, 2002) Paul offered the good news of peace with God, within oneself and with one another, through Christ. Then he moved on to a new location.

But he heard through the grapevine that things changed after he left. People had undermined him. They said he wasn't legit. He wasn't a reliable sent one. And, they added to his message. There's stuff you have to do. There are laws you must keep. Hoops you must jump through to be right with God. Faith in Christ is not enough.

This week's message is highly relevant to the tense times we find ourselves in. We will watch the humble, honest, relational manoeuvring between Paul and the other apostles as they work out their disagreements about what it means to be faithful to the good news of Jesus Christ.

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

A note from our Missions Team Lead on the Riverside Project

In past summers, a team of Sunnysiders has helped run a day camp with Pete & Jenita Naylor at Riverside Community Church in Northern Ontario. This year, we are partnering with Riverside through special financial giving. They have expressed being in desperate need of two new computers, which will enable them to continue ministering to their growing community as well as a broad online audience. Our goal is to raise \$2,000. You can give by selecting "Riverside" in the PayPal and Pushpay options at www.sunnysidechurch.ca/giving. If you'd like to give by e-transfer to giving@sunnysidechurch.ca, include a note for "Riverside." Or send a cheque, made out to Sunnyside Wesleyan Church, with "Riverside" on the memo line.

Next Prayer Gathering: June 1 at 11:30 a.m.

Please [email the prayer team](#) with your requests for prayer. We will remember you.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)