

Theme for 2020

I AM WHAT ‘YOU’ SEE!

‘LORD, Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What YOU See.’

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light... Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you. The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I’ll never comprehend them! I couldn’t even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you.”

Matthew 6:22 (MSG); Psalm 139:13-18 (MSG)



This Week’s Thought – April 12, 2020

Happy Resurrection Sunday!

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” 1 Corinthians 12:26 English Standard Version (ESV)

“We’re all in this together.” Over the past few weeks, it’s a slogan that we ourselves have used and one that we’ve seen in countless places. It is a sign of global solidarity in the midst of remarkable turmoil, fear, and confusion. There is not a single person on earth that will be untouched by this crisis, either directly or indirectly, and while the sentiment is powerful, we must acknowledge the weight of this crisis is not distributed equally.

“We’re all in this together”, but we are not all in this in the same way! While some wait it out in the comfort of their homes with plenty of savings to buffer the immediate financial loss, others who have missed even a single shift at work find themselves profoundly vulnerable in ways that were unimaginable just days before. Likewise, some complete their duties from the comfort of a living room or home office, while others, such as our medical professionals and other deemed ‘essential workers’ expose themselves to disease and sickness while working 15+ hour days, day after day with no end in sight.

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While we may all be in this together, you and I must each discern what faithfulness looks like in our immediate context. For some of you, your primary call right now is the protection and safe-keeping of your children and most vulnerable family members, including yourself. This is a holy and noble calling and should be celebrated by all. For others, you might be blessed with an abundance of financial resources, and it is a season to remember that our Lord calls you to give your life away for the sake of others, and this gift of self includes your time, talent, and your treasure.

In all of this, I am reminded from my seminary studies of the ancient wisdom of a religious reformer St. Benedict, who sought to create communities of faith in which *“the strong have something to strive for and the weak have nothing to hide from.”* Some of you today may be feeling strong and able to rise to this moment with courage and selfless love. The church and world need you to do so right now! Your strength is our joy and great comfort. Yet others of you find yourself crushed by financial burden and crippling anxiety. Your need is not a source of shame but is to be shared and burdened by all, especially the family of faith. As Paul reminds us, *“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”* (1 Corinthians 12:26)

Let us press on and move forward in solidarity with one another and faith in the goodness of our loving God!

“I am who You say I am! I am God’s workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9). I am greatly loved by God (Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12). I AM WHAT ‘YOU’SEE!”

Application: What does faithfulness look like for you in this present moment? Where we are in need, ask the Lord to meet us with His loving care, and where we are strong, Ask the Lord to give us courage to reach out in His name and in His love.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Father, I want to live in the shadow of Your wing. When life is hard, and I don’t know what to do, help me remember that You are with me and that I am never alone. I cannot live without You. I cannot face tomorrow without the promise of Your presence. Today I choose to walk and live under the protection of You, The Everlasting, Most High God. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King