

March 16, 2020

A Pastoral Letter for Community

The scripture which informs our wisdom tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by our Creator. From those wonderful and marvelous thumbs to our skins ability to recover after being broken, the human body God has wrapped us in, is both a work of art and a scientific marvel.

We have been overwhelmed by news concerning the coronavirus. So, how do God's people respond in times like this?

God's people are a compassionate people. So a good response is to check-in on the sick and lonely. Each day you may want to make a list and call or text people who are vulnerable or simply living alone. A familiar voice can be more comforting than you can imagine.

Further in times like this, we need to resist the temptation to blame. Viruses are not owned or produced by any one country or people. A virus reminds us of how connected we are as humans. So, as God's people, we reject being prejudice, we reject blaming, and we work for and pray for solutions.

We pray. Pray for doctors to produce a vaccination, pray for those who have contracted the virus to recover, pray for those who provide care for the sick to be wise and cautious, pray for governments to serve their citizens and offer a test, care, and vaccines, not for profit but for compassion.

I'll close by reminding us of another piece of wisdom from our scripture. *"God has not given us the spirit of FEAR" (2 Timothy 1:7)*. One of the more repeated refrains of the Bible is "fear not." The Rabbis teach that "be not afraid" is a command. God has provided self-control. The command is to not allow fear to overwhelm our moral compass or power of reason.

Which returns us to the scripture, the conclusion to 2 Timothy 1:7 is that God has given us a spirit *"of power, and of love, and of sound judgment."*

We pray, we have courage, and we wash our hands.

John