

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Christ Centered - Biblically Based - Spiritually Alive!

Dear saints at Trinity,

Almost two calendar weeks have gone by since we in Florida have lived in a new normal dealing with this dreadful pandemic of COVID-19. Numerous businesses and organizations, along with almost all churches, have closed their doors and suspended activities. The news outlets continue to bombard us daily with updates on how COVID-19 has impacted our country and the rest of the world. The stock market is taking a beating amid all the uncertainty. People everywhere continue to wonder when all this is going to end so things can go back to "normal." And my question to you is: "*How are you holding up?*" Or, as some may have asked, "*What is God Doing in This Pandemic?*"

For mutual encouragement, I'd like to share with you this reflection from Leighton Ford, former associate of Billy Graham:

A friend asked me yesterday what I thought God was doing through the coronavirus pandemic.

I hesitated to come up with an answer, remembering that God told Isaiah, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways" (Isaiah 55:8). He also rebuked Job's speculations about the reason for his misfortunes, asking, "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" (Job 38:2).

So how could anyone be presumptuous enough to try to explain what God is doing?

*In reflection, though, I can venture to say that **He is reminding us control freaks how little we really do control.***

*And perhaps he is reminding us to **"be still and know that I am God."***

I understand that there are many who desperately need and want to be able to go to work, and I hope they will soon. And there are over-stressed doctors and nurses who can barely keep going.

But I am also reminded that the French thinker Pascal famously wrote that the cause of many of the world's problems is that we do not know how to sit still alone in our room for one hour.

For some of us, could it be that the LORD is whispering, "This is a time to be still. And to listen for my voice while you wait"?

[From *Leighton Ford Ministries*, March 25, 2020]

I know I'm one of those who "do not know how to sit still alone in our room for one hour," and I really want to learn how to do it right in order to reflect on this question, "What is God saying to me in this pandemic experience, so I can help to turn this into a positive opportunity to bless someone?" And I wish you too would reflect on it.

Please know your elders, deacons, and your pastor are praying for you – for your spiritual and physical well-being, safety, as well as your perseverance. If you have any specific prayer request, please feel free to send it to me at pastor@trinitypc.org, or call me on 703-899-0725. Also, your worship team is hard at work to make this coming Sunday's worship meaningful to you, as we plan to record it on Friday afternoon.

Remember ... You are a child of God! Scripture tells us: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, and you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1b). And may "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

Blessings,

Pastor Bill