

“God of Living Water”

John 4:5-42

Prepare - Take Care - Pray are words used in Bishop Davenport's pastoral letter from Southeast Pennsylvania Synod. "...God is with us and throughout this crisis we are to proclaim God's love and care for all our neighbors. Public Health Officials urge us to flatten the curve slowing the spread of the virus so that our health and emergency systems are not overwhelmed."

From "The World According To Mister Rogers" he shared a memory, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news my mother would say to me 'look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day especially in the time of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in the world."

The Bishop's pastoral letter advises, "wash your hands, use hand sanitizers, disinfect high touch areas, and 6 feet between persons in worship areas. Omit hand shakes for the sharing of the peace, instead bow with hands folded together saying 'peace be with you' or raise your hands waving to each other. Stay home if you are sick. Stay connected. Telephone, e-mail, write notes, assist with getting groceries or medicines. Stay open to the leading of the spirit in the midst of crisis. This will pass, I believe we are being taught humility and flexibility... Devote yourselves to prayer being watchful and thankful." Col 4:2

In Sunday and Seasons I am thankful for this insight, "Everything in this gospel reading is wrong and that makes it right. Jews like Jesus do not talk to Samaritans. Women do not come to the well alone in the middle of the day. Men do not talk to women they are not related to. Jesus breaks through all of these barriers to share the promise of living water." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:13-14

In understanding love, Mister Roger explains, "Listening is a very active awareness of the coming together of at least two lives. Listening as far as I'm concerned, is certainly a prerequisite of love, one of the most essential ways of saying 'I love

you' is being a receptive listener."

Each of us came to faith through someone. Each of us can recall listening about Christ from another person who likely meant something to us. The woman at the well shared her experience with the townspeople. Many believed upon hearing and many more listened for themselves and believed. As one commentary said, "We do not have a once and for all encounter. But a relationship with Jesus unfolding overtime, ever deepening, ever revealing, until the cross and the exaltation. The life of Faith is shared reflections. As Christ the Living Water nourishes us daily in remembering our baptism.

Sharing his faith, Mister Rogers reflected, "the more I think about it , the more I wonder if God and neighbor are somehow one. 'Loving God, loving neighbor' - the same thing? For me, coming to recognize that God loves every neighbor is the ultimate appreciation!

Now the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen