

Sermon for March 29, 2020

by Rev. Nora Becker

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"In God's Time"

What a painful thing it is to discover that Jesus is not going to drop everything to save Lazarus. Mary and Martha discover it. Lazarus discovers it. The disciples discover it. And today, many people throughout the world are praying for the same thing and finding grief and not hope. We have a world turned upside down by the coronavirus, by plagues of locusts, by climate change and extreme weather, by man's inhumanity to man, and a desire to conform the planet to man's will. "Jesus will not save us from the Cross either, because he will not save himself from the Cross. He will not save us from the Cross because straight through the Cross is the only path to resurrection." And yet, Jesus takes his time in going to Lazarus. Some people have near death experiences that creates a new perspective of joy and a peace that passes understanding; it changes their very being. Some experience a feeling of lostness after being in the peace of God; they grieve because they have had a taste of heaven and yearn to go home. We don't get to schedule our resurrections; we must wait for it. We don't know when Jesus will show up, it's not like our earthly birthday where we at least would like a piece of cake and a card. But when Jesus does show up, we know that God is with us. But what about when you need him? Do you trust Jesus and his timetable? Jesus took his time to get there. And Jesus wept. He was distraught. Mary and Martha were upset with him. Where have you been? But Jesus was right on time. He was there; he said, "Lazarus, come out!" Do you believe? Unlike Lazarus, we are being asked to "stay in our caves" to save ourselves and each other. To only come out if necessary; to die to all the things we miss. Right now, we must take precautions. 1 Rev. Whitney Rice "Sermons that Work" March 29, 2020 Lent 5 Year A "No One Asks" "In God's Time" Page 2 of 2 Most importantly, we must find way to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. We have answered some prayers this week. And we will answer

again as we are able. 'Our bones are dried up. For some of us are struggling, some of us are lost, some of us feel cut off completely. It's hard to stay put, worrying over families, friends, co-workers. It's hard to know there are people without a secure place to rest and be safe, to have food and proper medical care. Parents that cannot afford to feed their children, the layoffs, the shuttering of service organizations, the closing of churches, libraries, schools, restaurants; and the burden the grocery stores and pharmacies have in trying to meet the needs of the community. Most of all, the burden the medical professions carry as they give their time, energy and compassionate care to those who are ill. But then, early this week, a huge box of facemasks were found in the basement of National Cathedral and are now in hospitals. God provides and we are called to trust in Him. Little miracles everywhere if you choose to look and see. God provides in His time and at the right time. We wait on the Lord. Pray, keep the faith, fight the fear, & share God's love. Amen.

Every Sunday, and on the 1st day we celebrate together again,
Dick Clovis will ring the bells at 10:00 AM for 5 minutes.
Come, sit in the parking lot or park on Main Street
and celebrate the call to worship!
Bring your cuppa Joe and let us wave to one another!!!
And then, GO HOME!

I miss you, I love you, and let's ring the bells!

We are trav'ling in the footsteps of those who've gone before
But if we stand reunited, then a new world is in store.
Some say this world of trouble, is the only one we need
But I'm waiting for that morning, when the new world is revealed.
O when the saints go marching in, when the saints go marching in
O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.
by Louis Armstrong