

A Mid-day Meditation

From

Sue's Perspective

*"We're not all in the same boat...we're in the same storm; but some of us have strong boats and others are leaking."*  
- The Ven. David Pickett, Rector/Incumbent, Christ Church Elbow Park, Calgary

Over the past number of months, all of us have been puzzling out just what normal is for us in these changing times. Each person is trying to establish what needs to happen in his or her life in order to be as safe as possible right now. Some are looking forward, hoping to see what tomorrow brings. Most are looking back to see if there is any chance of recovering what was. There are people who are comfortable in going out into the community and there are those who are not. There are people who are diligent about following the rules so as to do their part in bringing the pandemic into some kind of manageable state and there are those who do not. Regardless of which group you belong to, it's clear that...

*"We're not all in the same boat..."*

The conversations we hear right now are conversations around the anticipated spike in COVID-19 expected to come in the fall. Other conversations are around which political leader is going to get us through this pandemic with the least amount of illness, the fewest deaths, the most success in our country's efforts in weathering the storm. We hear disheartening statistics. We hear that a vaccine is being developed. We hear so much that all we can think about is the chaos...and even after all these months, the chaos seems to be there. Do we send our kids back to school? Which rural kids will have their names picked to ride the bus to school? Will it ever be safe to reassemble for worship in our buildings or will we always be having online worship? We all have the same questions and the same concerns, so we know that...

*...we're in the same storm;*

We look at the countries around the world to see how they are faring in comparison to our own country. I know that we here in the Northern Bruce Peninsula look at the statistics from other municipalities in our county. We don't breathe a sigh of relief, but we do regard ourselves as very fortunate up to now, knowing that so far there are and have been no known cases of COVID-19 in our municipality. My daughter and I were chatting the other day and she told me that she was extremely annoyed because where she lives in Australia (Queensland in general, Brisbane in particular) there have been reports of six new cases. I would say that the vessel in which they are traversing this storm for the most part seems fairly strong. Then I hear reports of what is happening south of our borders in the United States and further south in Brazil, where our companion diocese of Amazonia is located. The people there don't seem to be getting the message – neither the leaders nor the general population. We look around us and think...

*...but some of us have strong boats and others are leaking."*

But I cannot leave this meditation here...having borrowed my friend David's metaphor of a storm, it behooves me to finish this with a reminder that many storms have battered us over the years. Life is never a case of smooth sailing all of the time. We must never become complacent when it comes to life. Life is a gift from God to be cherished...oh, and remember, Jesus calmed a storm or two over his lifetime, both literal and figurative.