



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Resurrection of the Lord, April 4, 2021

Trust the Faith

by Mr. Daniel H. Wilcox

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

15:1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,

15:2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you-- unless you have come to believe in vain.

15:3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,

15:4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,

15:5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

15:8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

15:11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The lingering Coronavirus Pandemic debate has led to sharp divisions regarding this pathogenetic phenomenon and the necessary treatment methodologies. Experts and not-so experts expressed a wide spectrum of remedies. Consequently, a mantra, "Trust the science" has been invoked to

encourage rational, reasonable approaches to treatment. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, a renowned US epidemiologist, from onset has resoundingly called for sound scientific methods, such as hand washing, social distancing, and masking before vaccines were available and pragmatic procedures for vaccine development. Trust the science.

The writer of 1 Corinthians, one of the earliest New Testament books, circa 51 A.D., declares that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important message to be shared. While the death and burial are critically important, in particular to atonement for sin, it is the resurrection and its implications that have primary concern. The seeing of Jesus Christ alive after crucifixion by the apostles and others confirms his prophecy and power over all things, in particular human belief. A belief engendered by a trust that God would ransom humanity from sin through an atoning sacrifice and sanctify humanity through resurrection from death. Trust the faith in a risen Christ Jesus.

Trust the faith in Christ Jesus that will restore us from the deadly isolation of this Coronavirus experience to believing in the living Holy One seen by many. Trust the faith in Christ Jesus that will encourage us to tell this vital resurrection story that others might come to believe and be saved. Trust the faith that Easter shall reign as Resurrection Sunday, a day of holiness in the hearts and souls of many, if not all humanity.

Trust the faith is our rational, reasonable way to life for Christian believers.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you have trusted the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a guiding principle? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY:

Almighty God, who through your only-engendered Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT: During the Easter season, share with one person a week, the life-giving story of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Journal your experience and reflect on your journey through Eastertide and toward Pentecost. In this Eastertide Season, do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amehealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song: He Lives

1. I serve a risen Savior; He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.

I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

Refrain:

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair.
I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.