

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic
Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 6, 2021**

Holy Eviction, High Conviction

By Daniel H. Wilcox

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

4:13 But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture--"I believed, and so I spoke" --we also believe, and so we speak,

4:14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

4:15 Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

4:16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

4:17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,

4:18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Recently, we observed the unjust displacement of Palestine people from their homes. Also, Benedict Joseph Labre, the Beggar of Rome, chose a penitent pilgrimage subsisting on meager fare and is known as the patron of homeless. Eviction, removal from residence, can result in a tragic sense of hopelessness, invading one's spirit with dissonance. When you are evicted, where can you go to reside and exist?

The writer of 2 Corinthians records that a believer challenged by the calamities of life, possesses a faith in God that will not fail. Their hope anchors in a trust that though inextricably beaten, overpowered, or burdened by troubles prevails because of God's protecting provision. Our faith that the Eternal One who raised Jesus Christ from death's dark dungeon will also raise us. In spite of apparent external extinguishing of human vitality, the God renews courageous faith through daily affirmations that encourage and compel. Humanity encounters diminishing capacities as we mature, shortening of steps, diming of eyesight, tainting of teeth, or lessening of hearing. Finally, an inevitable moment when spirit is separated from body comes with an inescapable eviction. Where can one go or where does one subsist?

Out of confident conviction, believers respond with eternal blessing of divine hope, that though evicted from the temporal residence, they will move to eternal habitation in the heavens, not constructed by human agency. This temporary inconvenience will be replaced by God with permanent celestial accommodations. Therefore, that bane of earthly eviction becomes a blessing of heavenly conviction; and, we rest with God forevermore.

Let us live in worship, witness, and the work of God, knowing that God has an eternal home for us in heaven.

TALK: Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time-instance when you have felt homeless or without a place to exist. What was foremost on your mind? What sustained you? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

PRAY: O God, whom all good proceeds. Grant that by your inspiration we may think about those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer

ACT:

1. During the Kingdomtide season, engage a mature believer to discuss their perceived journey forward, its hopefulness or hopelessness. Journal your experience and reflect on your own spiritual journey. 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.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the craft activity that accompanies this devotion.

Song:

O They Tell Me of a Home
AMEC Hymnal, #480

1. O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
O they tell me of a home far away;
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

Refrain

O the land of cloudless day,
O the land of an unclouded day,
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

2. O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
O they tell me of a land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day.

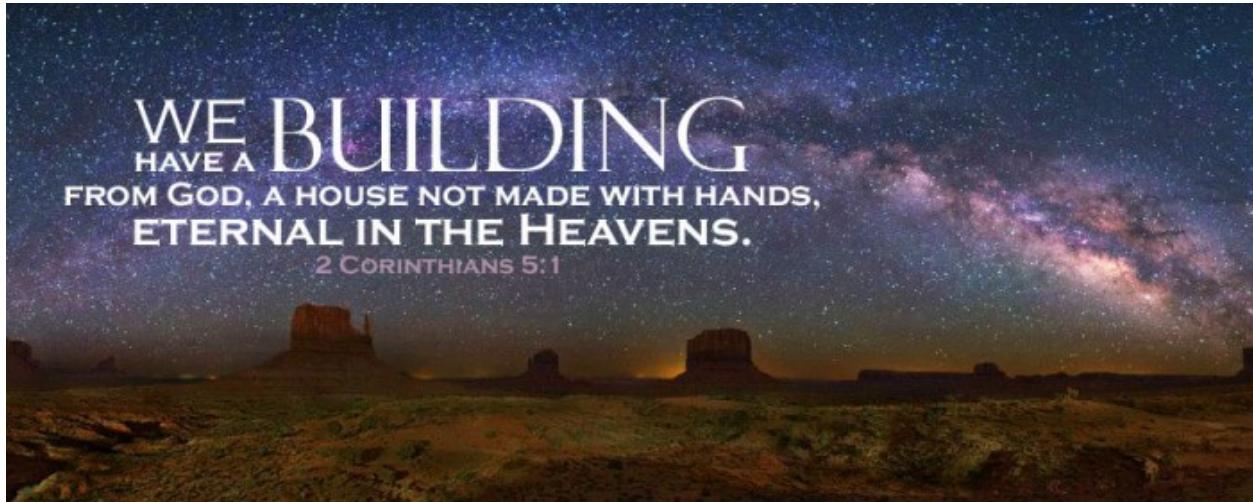
Refrain

3. O they tell me that He smiles on His children there,
And His smile drives their sorrows all away;
And they tell me that no tears ever come again
In that lovely land of unclouded day.

Refrain

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.