

March 19, 2020 - Thursday

REFLECTIONS - A Note from Pastor Melissa

The Work of the People

The word "liturgy", another word for what we do in worship, means "the work of the people." I have preached, taught, and written countless times, that worship is not something you watch, but something in which all are active participants. When I teach confirmation class, I have the youth create a list of all the people who make worship happen. This list gets pretty long: the secretary who makes the bulletin, the custodian who readies the sanctuary, the choir, the preacher, music leader, musicians, ushers, greeters, acolytes, the person leading the children's sermon, and lay readers. The point of this exercise is of course to help the youth realize that weekly worship takes many gifts and skills and offers many places to serve.

Since Saturday, I keep thinking of this idea of worship as "the work of the people." I appreciate so much the notes of appreciation for the video worship for last Sunday. However, you should also know how much your presence was missed during its creation. So much of worship is what all of you bring to it: Your desire to seek God's presence, Your singing, Your smiles, Your sharing of the concerns of your heart, Your prayers, Your energy, heart and love for one another.

The message has certainly hit home this week that the church is not the building, but the church IS the people. We are working on ways to connect people during this time. One of the ways we will do that is through the ZOOM video conference call system. I know some of you think you are not "tech" savvy. That is ok. You do not have to be tech savvy to use ZOOM. I've been on Zoom this week with Sally Bates, Martha Hatcher, Ida Cooksey and many more. ZOOM is not a type of social media. ZOOM is a tool like a telephone line that helps groups talk together when they are apart. I'll be sending more detailed instructions later. But I encourage you to try it. The need for connection will be greater the longer this goes on. I know I have been blessed and excited to get to see you as I have helped a few people this week. I will begin teaching Adam Hamilton's *Unafraid* Bible Study next Wednesday on Zoom. We will also offer youth and children's ministry through this platform. We'll have plenty of time to try it out this week, because we want everyone with us. Dear friends, know I love you and mthursdayiss you and am committed to keeping us connected. It's not church without YOU!