

Church, Our Center

Recently someone wrote on Facebook that without church on Sunday they felt they had lost their direction. They did not know what day it is. They were accustomed to starting their week on Sunday and Sunday meant church. It is where they became renewed and refreshed, ready to start a new week, and let the old week go and now there was no church. Their life had lost its center, they had no compass. I have felt some of this and I am sure others have also. While I enjoy the online service and the message which always inspires, I miss so much. I miss just being there, the Altar rail, the prayers with others, the music that echoes our faith as we raise our voices in unison, the community with its inclusion and comfort, the hugs, even the fist bumps, the togetherness of communion and prayer and the gathering after at coffee hour.

I did not think of how church on Sunday centered my life until we no longer had the inside the building service or the service in the parking lot. Now I have no day to figure out what day it is. I cannot say Sunday I went to church then there was Monday and Tuesday, this must be Wednesday. My starting point was always Sunday. On Sunday I know that if I am busy or not feeling well, I can watch the service later. Previously if I missed Church on Sunday, I missed Church there was no watching it Monday or Tuesday and there was an empty spot in my week. I hope that this service will continue after we are once again gathered in the building for those that cannot physically attend.

Years ago, navigation was accomplished by looking for the North Star Polaris. Polaris sits over the North Pole and ships and desert caravans would use it to tell their direction. It was always there and always reliable. Christ is our North Star and even without gathering, it is from Christ that we find our center, maintain our focus, refresh our faith, continue to pray for each other, and follow our direction. He is always there and always reliable and following him is the most important focus we have in maintaining the life of the church.

Soon we will be back in church and we will have our center returned. We will continue to wear masks, to wash our hands frequently and to social distance until it is safe and by doing this, we will protect ourselves and show our love for each other.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Lord be with us as we go through this seemingly unending pandemic. Lord we yearn for "normal." Help us to see you in all things even in this season of trial. We thank you for each day and for the beauty of the sun upon the snow, for the Winter that brings the promise of Spring. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, may they feel you with them and be comforted. Be with our Pastor and his family, bless his ministry. Be with our Staff and our leaders, give them your guidance and blessing. Be with our church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Grace Epperson