

Dear Ones,

Over the years, I have developed a habit of starting my day by reading something that will wake my soul up. Forward Day by Day is a reliable standby, but I have also enjoyed the yearly late December process of choosing the next year's book. Except the one I was using over last year, written by N.T. Wright, was meant to go from Easter to Easter, so over the last few weeks I've been dipping into other options. Right now, it's *Somehow*, by Annie Lamott. I limit myself to about a page and a half, so that it will last. In the section I read this morning, she was talking about accompanying a dear friend through her final days and how they would reminisce about the shenanigans they got up to. This section really hit home for me:

And another memory: When I helped out at the dance classes she held for developmentally disabled adults every Tuesday for years, one young man told her later: "I liked that girl. She was a helper, and she danced." This will be in the swag bag of general instructions I leave behind for my grandson when I'm gone. Be a helper, and dance.*

The chaos seems to have the upper hand most of the time these days. I can see in your faces and hear in your voices how sometimes it all feels like too much. I understand. It's a lot. Even overwhelming at times. So I offer this one word of hope for you: we don't have to face it alone. We have the help of the Spirit, and we have each other to remind us to dance once in a while. To look hard into the chaos and laugh, knowing that the one who breaks the darkness and tames the chaos is not far away.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

*Lamott, Anne. *Somehow: Thoughts on Love* (p. 75). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a * Psalms 42 & 43 * Galatians 3:23-29 * Luke 8:26-39

CREATION CARE TIPS

A difficult question – a complex, and probably incomplete answer

Trinity Sunday's service was full to overflowing with phrases connecting God to God's creation. And there were plenty of ways the two – God and creation – were linked to God's people. In the reading from Proverbs, wisdom says, "Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made fields, or the world's first bits of soil." And in the Prayers of the People, we heard, "Creating God, your name is majestic in all the Earth, and we are filled with awe at your creation. Renew this planet and all its wonders: springs abounding with water, earth and soil, beasts of the field, birds of the air, and fish of the sea." And in the eucharistic prayer, we heard, "You have filled us and all creation with your blessing,"

But the phrase that captured my attention, and really made me sit up and take notice, is found in the confession of sin that's used in *Enriching Our Worship*, "The evil that enslaves us ... the evil done on our behalf." One word kept flashing in front of my eyes and kept circling in my mind. If you've read more than ten of these articles over the past five years, chances are you have already guessed the word. PLASTICS. The evil that enslaves us. We can't brush our teeth or toast our whole wheat bread without encountering

plastics. The plastics that reside inside our bodies, that wear off our car tires and find their way into the oceans, the plastics that are blended with wool and hold our socks up, or are blended with our denim and allow our jeans to move with us, the plastics that comprise bumpers and dashboards and car seats, the plastics that hold our groceries.

I finally understand one evil done on our behalf. The tamper-proof wrapped locking cap on Tylenol, the unbreakable shampoo bottle in the shower, the small travel-size bottle of hand sanitizer many of us still carry, are all innovations designed to protect us – sometimes from our clumsiness, sometimes from unseen dangers like germs, or sometimes from mentally unstable neighbors who want to sow fear in us.

The big question that lingers several days after that wonderful Trinity Sunday service is, *“What can we do about this evil that enslaves us, this evil done on our behalf?”* The answers are difficult, complex, and incomplete. We can only reduce this evil, unless we turn the clock back and live as our forebears did, with wood, metal, glass, linen, cotton, leather and wool, in small log cabins, adobe huts, or caves, with animal-drawn plows and carts. But the Earth’s population is too large for us to live that way. So we can only be mindful of the plastics we use, strive to reduce the amount we use, recycle what we use, and look for ways to replace plastics.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR

SUN: 10:15 AM Eucharist/In-person and online
WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study
THU: 9:00 AM Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Garden Maintenance We are looking for volunteers to maintain the gardens in the front—mostly weeding and maybe a little trimming. Would you like to help?

The **funeral service for Ada Moore** will be next Saturday, June 28, at 2:00 PM at St. Paul’s in Brunswick (27 Pleasant Street). It will also be livestreamed, right now, we are planning for that to be via their website: <https://stpaulsmaine.org/home/live-stream/>. (Not on our Facebook page)

The **funeral service for Martha Eaton** will be Sunday, July 6, at 1:00 PM at Christ Church. We need people to help set up the Guild Room and downstairs ahead of time (Saturday afternoon, ideally); ushers for the service; people to take communion stations to the livestream rooms, and people to help take everything down after.

Backyard Eucharists During COVID, we enjoyed gathering outdoors to celebrate the Eucharist together and there was some desire to continue them during the summer. Would any of you like to host one some evening?