

# A WORD FROM OUR RECTOR

Dearly beloved,

It is such a blessing to be able to write to you all during this exceptional time. With the schools closed, George is home with Giles and me, and so I'm typing this in the quiet of my living room with some coffee to hand before he awakens and another day with a boisterous, beloved toddler begins.

I wonder how you are all faring with the new (albeit temporary) normal in which we find ourselves. Some of us, I know, are working around the clock. Some of us are going a bit stir crazy. While we are all navigating this together, I wager that no two experiences of ours are quite the same. Some of us were already in the throes of our own griefs and upheaval before the Coronavirus outbreak escalated. As I type, I am praying for you, in the intricate circumstances of your life exactly as it is right now, and holding you in profound love.

It is a strange thing to have life so altered by a thing we cannot, and have not as yet, seen with our own eyes. It is an odd spiritual practice to remain at a physical distance from one another for fear of what we might inadvertently pass along otherwise.

Part of what seems overwhelming is the realization of how much my presence could negatively impact someone else, and then to realize that it isn't my presence alone but every person's that has the capacity to do that. The enormity of that reality can be sobering enough to bring one to a standstill, spiritual or otherwise. At the same time, I think it can also be the opening to something else.

You see, we have always been this connected. It's just that in this extraordinary moment we are being confronted with the depth and degree of connection we have to one another. And I do believe that holy confrontation is the turning point between our fear of the unseen and our faith in things not seen.

In this moment, we are focused on how to minimize harm to one another, especially when it comes to the spreading of this disease. And in our storied language of the Prayer Book, "it is meet and right so to do." At the same time, the capacity we have to harm one another is exactly the same capacity we have to bless and be blessings as far round the globe as we can conceive. It's the same capacity we have to help and heal and offer genuine care. The ripple effect we are wary of triggering with this virus is exactly the ripple effect we create, even now, when we love someone and love them well. Because God is love.

Perhaps God's love connects us far more than we often realize, and perhaps this moment offers us a kind of awakening to a reality we have spoken of as the Body of Christ, who holds everything and everyone together (Colossians 1:17). In this season of heightened awareness, both spiritual and social, I pray that God will show up in each of our lives and hearts to calm our fears and strengthen us for the work of Christ at hand, and that in doing so God will help us discover what it is we are here for and how to live as the people we were created to be.

Yours in Christ's love,

Imogen+