

Minister's Update

Dear Church:

One rainy afternoon, I peered out the window in my office and looked at the barren tree in the courtyard. Its branches were bare and the rain glistened off its limbs. While, the tree was devoid of that glorious bloom of green that comes in the spring it still possessed a deep sense of vitality, life, and hopefulness.

There are times in our Christian journey when the limbs of our faith seem bare. We aren't quite sure what to pray, we don't know what to make of the Bible, and we aren't sure where God's presence is. St. John of the Cross called these seasons "The Dark Night of the Soul." While, it can be tempting to lose heart or faith, we can instead utilize these seasons to prepare for the spring in our lives.

Faith is not about having all of the right answers, it is instead about placing our hope in a living God who journeys with us. There have been many days when I have been tempted to give up, to question my faith or even wonder why I'm in the ministry. It is in these moments that faith kicks in. Faith, is a radical trust in God, is believing beyond our circumstances, our afflictions, and fears and believing that God is ever present in our lives. Faith, however doesn't just appear in our lives it must be exercised. Faith has to be put into practice each and every day.

So how can you activate your faith?

1. Spend time in God's Word daily (read the daily lectionary scriptures, or work your way through the Psalms or the Gospel of Mark)
2. Meditate on God's presence (focus your mind on a word such as faith, hope, love, and joy and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to live into these words each day)
3. Pray (use the Book of Common Prayer, journal, talk out loud, color or draw your prayers).

I encourage you to read the book "Simple Prayer" by local D.C. pastor Charlie Dawes.

February 2020