

I am going to depart from my usual deep dive into scriptural context and talk about our current moment. To share the blindingly obvious, sheltering in place so *meh*. It's so tedious. I never thought I would feel angst looking at a closed gym, but I do. On the bright side, I am logging a morning *and* afternoon walk. Despite feeling trapped, I am not quite Jack Nicholson in the shining crazy. But I do swing wildly from bored-in-the-house #curtisroach to completely overwhelmed.

My first approach Sunday's scriptures was disappointing. I was hoping to hear a present word for our current situation. But it wasn't working:

- Lazarus is raised from the dead after "he stinketh" which completely freaks out the religious leaders
- Ezekiel has a vision of bleach white bones (read no hope of coming back to life until they did). His words were a warning to return to faithfulness.

Both stories are about hopeless situations. We are **not** in a hopeless situation. We have hope and have a role to play. We might feel a little Lazarus wrapped up always in our homes, but God promises to sustain us and bring us new life. We don't need a Deus Ex Machina Lazarus resurrection. We need to stay put and to help the vulnerable and trust that God is carrying us through this. Together, we can lessen COVID 19's impact.

### Yes we can

Our current situation is extremely distressing. It will likely become far more distressing in the weeks to come. It's not hopeless. Talk to me in the Fall if the virus mutates, and we need 1918 Spanish Influenza type Ezekiel visions. We're not in a dead-end Lazarus moment. We are not in a no-hope situation needing Ezekiel's vision. We have things we do. That's true even if that "thing" is staying put.

**Side note** bragging on St. Timothy's. A small team of St. Timothy's people are already helping those over 65 who need prescriptions, groceries, etc.

I am anxious but I am **not** worried about me or my direct family. I am worried about those at risk, like my in-laws. I worry about the economy. Despite all that, I refuse to go down the road of restarting the economy and letting those at risk can just fend for themselves. God is calling us to be together (apart) as a nation that is not ruthlessly economic and self-centered.

I am praying for God to use **us**.

My prayer has been throughout this time:

*Use us. Connect Us.*

### Digital connections

Those of you who know me, know that I can get a little geeky on my iPhone, Apple TV, and Apple watch. I love to show you video and images in church. But church is not a digital community and probably never can be or should be. We miss each other. I miss you. I am heartsick over shutting everything down.

Despite what you may think about me being a tech geek, I am **not in the least bit excited** about the long que of zoom meetings that I continue to have. It is better than the alternative. I am praying for God to: *Use us. Connect us* even if through a screen. We don't have to wait for a miracle and we can use technology to knit the bones of our community together. We can zoom with children. We can call our elders. We can tune into to worship. It's not ideal, but it is does not Lazarus-dead-end-stinketh, nor is it bone-white-Ezekiel-hopeless.

I do want to brag about one last thing. Your vestry has called most of the folks in the directory. Let us know if you haven't heard from us. God: Use us. Connect Us. May the be peace of Christ which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of the Lord.