



MAY 2020

MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE joy
peace PATIENCE
KINDNESS
goodness FAITH
gentleness FULLNESS
& self-control GALATIANS 5:22-23



“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:22-23, 25

The month of May brings a sense of ‘love and appreciation’ to our family and community which begins with Cinco de Mayo for families from Mexico, Mother’s Day for all women, and Memorial Day for all public service men and women, especially those who serve our country with their lives.

During the quarantine, how can we recognize this sense of ‘love and appreciation’ to friends from different cultures, to our mothers or spouses, and to those who are in uniform for our community, city and country? Since we are physically set apart, staying-at-home for many days, how do we express our emotions toward our own family or neighbors, who are close to us, often living in a same building or community? Yes, we may feel cautious, stressed, distanced and even isolated, but we still need to learn how to be ourselves as witnesses of the risen Christ, and grow stronger through this uncertain challenge caused by Covid-19.

One of my friends recently recommended a book series written by Dr. Gary Chapman. It is about 5 different languages for love: “The 5 Love Languages.” Probably, many of you have already read or learned about it. Obviously, these 5 languages are not like the languages I learned such as English, Hebrew, or Greek in school, but without knowing these languages for love, we are literally not able to communicate well or can misunderstand someone, especially those close to us. Dr. Chapman says, “Your emotional love language and the language of your spouse may be as different as Chinese from English. No matter how hard you try to express love in English, if your spouse understands only Chinese, you will never understand how to show love to each other. Being sincere is not enough. We must be willing to learn our spouse’s primary love language if we are to be an effective communicator of love.”

These “5 Love Languages” are ‘Words of Affirmation,’ ‘Quality Time,’ ‘Receiving Gifts,’ ‘Acts of Service,’ and ‘Physical Touch.’ Dr. Chapman pointed out that unless we grew up with all these different languages, we may have only the ability to primarily communicate with one or two of these languages but not all. That means we must understand “some individuals will know instantaneously their own primary love language and that of their loved one. For others, it will not be that easy. So, the key is to learn the primary love language of your loved one and choose to speak it.”

Do you know what? I have just ordered a couple of Audible books in Dr. Chapman’s series (free for 30 days in Amazon) and listened a few chapters. I applied what I learned to Mia who was about to go to the church office this morning, “You look good today and I love you!”(Words of Affirmation). Then, she replied back, “I will make chicken sandwiches for your lunch.”(Acts of Service). Wow! It works. I believe that Dr. Chapman truly shares his wisdom from his Christian faith to his audience wherever they are and whatever spoken language they use. At one time, he and his wife committed to be in Africa to teach and preach the Gospel of the risen Christ. However, because of his wife’s health, they could not go to Africa, which brought disappointment and disturbance to them for years. Now, in his own confession, “We just realized ‘Sovereignty of God’ over our lives, prepared us and used our stories which have been translated into 38 different languages.”

Over the month of May, we continue to retrieve the journey of the risen Christ Jesus who appeared to his loved ones with signs, gestures and languages. We can imagine how comforting and joyful those might be. In the meantime, I continue to pray with you for ‘Fruit of the Holy Spirit’ while we make tangible acts of fruitfulness each and everyday of our faith journey. May the peace of the risen Christ be with you! May the love of God through Jesus empower us to love one another! Amen.

Many blessings,

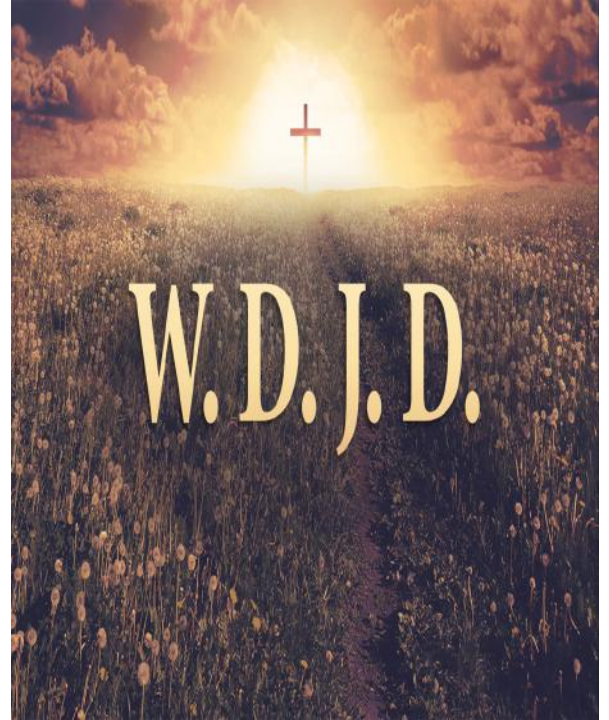
Pastor John Go

WHAT IS COMING UP?

Pastor John's Sermon Series

What Did Jesus Do?

During this Easter season of 2020, we're starting a series of sermons on retrieving Jesus' appearances after His resurrection, as told in the Bible. The goal of the series is to find ourselves shocked, discouraged, doubting, denying, and even being upset; yet to encounter Christ Jesus in person during this uncertain and challenging season. Please know that this series is actually designed to help you get started reading more stories in the Bible and joining Tuesday's Zoom study led by Rev. Carol Mariano or a small group discussion while we're in quarantine. I prayerfully hope these series and studies may guide us to overcome such an unpredictable time as Jesus' disciples were also experiencing, and furthermore, we can question to ourselves, "Then, What Would Jesus Do today?" I just don't want this to be a series of sermons, so let us aim to create a tangible way of life, that helps us to be "Doers of the Word" for today's world as a church, the resurrected Body of Christ.



Below is our tentative sermon schedule:

- May 3 Eight Days after the First Appearances John 20: 24 – 31**
- May 10 By the Sea of Galilee John 21: 1 – 14, Matthew 28: 16 - 17**
- May 17 On the Road to Damascus 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11, Acts 9: 1 - 9**
- May 24 On Ascension Day Acts 1: 2- 8**
- May 31 Pentecost Sunday Acts 2**

WHAT IS COMING UP?

The Month of May

May 10 Mother's Day

May 25 Memorial Day

May 31 Pentecost Sunday

Every Tuesday small Group 9:30 am-10:30 am

All Worship Services will continue through Youtube and Facebook
and small groups through Zoom in May.

Please email or call the church office for more details.



Thank you for always being with us. This is a very difficult time for the church El Dios Viviente and for all, but we believe in an almighty God who will take care of all and also we believe in people of good will, who share the love and blessings of God like you the people of Mercer island. God bless you always. We pray to God to take care of you too.

Hugs, thanks for all,

*Gerardo Guzman
El Dios Viviente UMC*



A LOVELY FLOWERED DRESS

By Carol Mariano

God came to me last night
 In a lovely flowered dress--
 God, with lily of the valley arms
 And apple blossom cheeks,
 with lilac breast
 and iris arching arms.
 God with red rose hips
 and blue delphinium legs.
 God came to me, inviting
 me into the fragrance
 of presence.
 And I saw that God surrounded me
 with light airiness of
 opening blossoms easily
 letting go as fruit
 begins to be.
 So I let myself go with God
 above the floating flowers
 leaving behind the ephemeral dress
 to look for the form,
 petal hidden,
 blossom nourished,
 whose time has come to flourish.

Presence: *The Journal of Spiritual Directors International*,
 Vol 8: no. 1
 February 2002, pg. 27



From Our Lay-leader, Linda Hodge

I have been thinking....probably too much time on my hands. But seriously, I have been reflecting on three words that Pastor John prayed with me several months ago:

Grateful, Faithful, Joyful.

He prayed that God would keep us grateful, faithful, and joyful. Those three words have been with me ever since, and now in the midst of this crisis, they are even more powerful. How important it is to keep an attitude of gratitude for all the gifts we have been given. How necessary it is to be faithful to our church, friends, community and beyond. And how do we find joy amid all the pain and suffering in this world. Anyway, this is what I have been thinking. Thank you for those three words.

DOERS OF THE WORD

United Methodist Clergy and Laity of the Greater Northwest Area,

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79

As bishop of the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church, I am extending the suspension of in-person worship in United Methodist Churches and other ministries and the closure of church facilities to all but essential services throughout the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences through May 30, 2020, **despite the loosening of restrictions in some or all of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.** This date may be reconsidered as circumstances change.

(You may read the whole letter to click <https://greaternw.org/bishops-covid-19-notice-5-april-24-2020/>)

I don't need to remind you that God is with us and at work. I don't need to remind you that miracles happen every day, even in the midst of disease and death, as people of generous hearts pour their lives out in love and service where there is need.

We are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God, who opens the way of life before us.

May God bless you and keep you today and through the days ahead.

Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky



Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky intends to appoint **Mia MiKyung Park** as Associate Pastor of

[Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church](#) in Seattle, Washington, beginning July 1, 2020.

Mia expects to be commissioned as a provisional elder during the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference this year.

THIS SPRING

All Worship Services in May will be on-line.

You could watch the service through YouTube or our church Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mercerislandumc/>. You will receive an email every Sunday morning including the worship service link and sermon script.



Every Tuesday 9:30 am-10:30 am
With Rev. Carol Mariano by Zoom:
www.zoom.us/j/5851307339

All participants will receive an email reminder for meeting. Those who don't have accessibility to Zoom could also join by calling at 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592. You will be asked to enter our meeting ID 585-130-7339 followed by #. The group shares thoughts and questions from the previous Sunday sermon.



Wishing all the Moms and all people who perform mothering a very blessed Happy Mother's Day.



May 2020 Newsletter

Mercer Island United Methodist Church

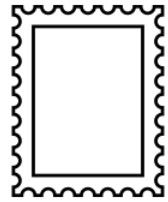
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