

Reflections on faith and life for Sunday, March 29, 2020 (COVID-19)

“A pastor is obedient to God’s calling, responsive to His grace, faithful to His word, committed to His people, and representative of His love” (Roy Lessin). These words are on a coffee mug given to me 12 years ago—and I was unaware of them until today. Oh, I knew there were words there, but they were on the “other” side. As a southpaw (left-hander) I drink with my right hand, and I know well the words printed on that side of the mug: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. But I was amazed this morning when I washed my “Sunday” mug and put it back on the shelf, and realized the 12-year-gap in recognizing the entirety of this cup.

That’s sort of a metaphor for me for our life right now. Regardless of the ups and downs of our daily life in these United States, things have been on a pretty even keel for the last 50 years—at least for most of us in the Midwest. There have been tragedies and miracles, crises and joys, sickness and health—but for the most part it’s all been within the realm of the expected. Now all of a sudden it seems we have no control over anything. We’re not used to being told what we can and can’t do. And I, for one, am amazed at how eager I am to avoid contracting the coronavirus. For years I’ve been saying I’m “ready to go at any time”; and I’ve really meant that. But now I’m saying, “sure, God, but not really *quite* yet.”

We’re approaching the end of this Lenten season; Palm Sunday is April 5th, followed by Holy Week, followed by the Resurrection.