

Monday Musings from Pastor Brooke, April 27, 2020

Happy Monday, Beloved Church,

I called a friend the other day and she didn't answer, but sent a text that she would call me back later **and** she had a surprise for me! My first thoughts were, "A surprise? I wonder where we're going to go?" And then I remembered. We weren't going to **go** anywhere. We are in the midst of a stay at home order. So then my mind started thinking, "What would be a good surprise during this time?"

Within the hour she called me back and I told her about my musings. She immediately responded, "I hope you won't be disappointed." I assured her I wouldn't be; after all, a surprise is a surprise. She then proceeded to tell me that another friend had made me a beautiful mask. Wow! Someone had used their talents to make something especially for me! That was a better surprise than going anywhere. Someone had thought of me and someone else made sure that I would receive it.

During this time of lots of changes, we often think that when things are out of our control, they can't possibly be good. But surprises are out of our control, too, and when executed by someone who cares about us, they are delightful. It means someone thought of us, put forth extra effort, and wanted to bring a bit of joy to us. You know who else is in the business of surprises? God is. In fact, God is all about surprises. The earliest stories in the Bible give us the image of a God who is about surprising us. When all seems lost to Noah, the dove returns with an olive branch. When the Israelites are in the desert and hungry, manna falls from heaven. When they think they will never get to return to their land, they do. When the Messiah arrives to earth, he comes in the form of a little baby. And when Jesus is crucified, death does not have the final word.

I know these times are difficult and that we have been given unwelcome surprises during this time. But we worship a God who is always surprising us — with the love that God is willing to give us and the grace and mercy we receive. So look around you: what is a welcome surprise you have received during this time? What is something you could do to surprise someone else?

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke

