



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
United Church of Christ



Reflections from Pastor Brooke for September 25, 2020

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

~ Psalm 78:2

What sayings have your ancestors told you? The early bird gets the worm? A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush? People who grew up in the south have some really interesting ones. While these sayings are often referred to as proverbs because of their length, Jesus taught using parables — stories about something unrelated to the message he was trying to teach, like last week when he taught about a vineyard owner and the workers he hired.

But some day, we will be the ancestors who are teaching about the pandemic of 2020. What is it that you are learning from this time? I don't mean working to learn something like how to bake sourdough bread or speak another language, but the lessons that have come about during this time. One of them for me would be, "No hug should ever be brief."

The last time I had the chance to hug someone outside of my "COVID circle" was at my ordination. I hugged my Dad at the airport before he left to fly back to Nebraska, but I really wish I had lingered a bit longer. I didn't know that would be the last time for a really long time. At the least, I would have likely had the chance to see him at Christmas.

Jesus teaches us many things through his parables, but do we live as if we hear them? Take a minute in the next few days and find a parable in the Bible and listen for the Stillspeaking God. In the midst of this pandemic, what do you hear from our ancestor Jesus that speaks to you? How will you live as if you have heard and know it?

These are difficult times, but we have a Source that is still speaking to us through parables. Absorb those parables and then live them out, so that one day you can tell your heirs how you lived as a Christian during the 2020 pandemic. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke