

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

As the leaves begin to turn colors and fall to the ground, I am reminded (once again) that the cycle of mortal life has both a beginning and an end; and that there will be both joy and sorrow. The myriad beginnings and endings we experience remind us that life in this world is precious, yet also finite. Both beginnings and endings are sacred. Moments such as the births of babies and marriages and meaningful employment are hope-filled and the possibilities seem endless, while the moments around the bedside or graveside saying goodbye to loved ones are a reminder that life is fragile and we need to lean upon God's promises. Both should cause us to ask "how do I see this event in light of God's promises of the abundant life in this world and the eternal life in the world to come?"

In Romans 14:8, Paul reminds us of what is constant through all of life's seasons: *"if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."* Whether it be a beginning or an end, God is with us. This is the promise Jesus made. It frames our way of looking at life, and gives us hope and peace, so that we can live out all the seasons of our lives with joy and courage.

Lord, please help me lean upon you in all circumstances. In times of Joy, help me not get so comfortable that I believe I do not need your mercy. In times of Sorrow, help me know you are near, and that the Resurrection of Christ will redeem all that is broken. Thank you for your unfailing love. Amen.

Whatever season you are in today, may the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, be with you in abundance.

Pastor Kara

