

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

For better or worse, many of us find ourselves logging onto online meetings (Zoom, Teams, etc.) daily. Most-widely used to protect us from infection during Covid, online meetings are now for convenience's sake, as we can connect with others even when unable to be in one physical space. Although, this can be taken to a ridiculous degree: I have weekly online meetings with coworkers who are seated literally *feet* away from me (an eerie fulfillment of something from the movie *WALL-E*). But they also allow me to connect with my dear friend in Canada and a cousin in Minnesota, and more. Which is a blessing.

But nothing is as good as in-person. Being in the presence of another person simply cannot be replaced so easily. In person, we can feel more connected, both physically and emotionally. It makes me think of God, and our accessibility to him. What would it be like if we could Zoom with God? I don't think God has a human body, *per se*, but what if we could see his face on the screen? Hear his voice? See what kind of furniture he had in his house? Wonder if he's wearing sweat pants with his suit jacket (some of you might not know what I'm talking about: during Covid some people would wear pajama bottoms (or boxer shorts, etc.) with dress shirts, or other business attire, on top, where the computer camera was aimed.)

In the Old Testament God made it clear that humans were just not equipped to handle his fullness, so he was careful to give them only glimpses of himself. But then God sent us his son, Jesus, and everything changed. Through Jesus, people gained complete access to God. They had a standing invitation to approach him, see him, hear him, know him. People clung to his garments and actually *touched him*. Can you imagine?

Actually, we kind of can, because we can be near God every day. God is in the air we breathe, the wind that blows upon our face, the power of the thunderstorm; God is in the spider web, and the autumn leaves as they flutter to the ground. God is. In each of these manifestations, and more, he invites us to come to him, just as we are, and connect with him in meaningful, real, honest ways. Jesus said “*come* to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest”; he said “*follow* me and I will make you fishers of men”; and he said “*abide* in me, and I in you”—shouldn't we accept these invitations? Find a way to connect with God today. I promise, there will be no wi-fi or passwords needed!

I'll see you soon,

Pastor Kara

