

The Gospel of Matthew gives us this reminder:

Jesus said, “Watch out for doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities, claiming, ‘I am Christ, the Messiah.’ They will deceive a lot of people. When reports come in of wars and rumored wars, keep your head and don’t panic. This is routine history; this is no sign of the end. Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Famines and earthquakes will occur in various places. This is nothing compared to what is coming. (Matthew 24:6-8 The Message)

We live in a fallen world. This world is not the world that God intended for us. God created a perfect garden for humans to live in. Our choice to follow our own desires has separated us from God. That is sin. God gave Adam and Eve clear instructions, and they chose to disobey. Our holy God cannot be in the presence of sin, so God sent them out of the garden where life would be difficult. It still is.

We are in the midst of Holy Week as I write this, and death and resurrection are heavy on my mind. This past Sunday brought news of a pregnancy in our extended church family, and we grieve the death of other dear ones. We hear the sounds of precious children in our sanctuary, where often we gather for a funeral. Beginnings and endings are part of life. From the moment of conception, we are sure there will be a death. Sometimes death comes even before birth, some after a long life, but death will touch each of us.

Our faith reminds us not to be afraid! We can face difficulties, hardships, disease, wars, and yes, even death, without fear. That is the assurance of Christ’s death and resurrection. That is the Good News! We are mandated by Christ to love others—that includes sharing our assurance of faith. We do that by more than sitting in a pew Sunday morning and dropping a check in the offering plate. Those are good things, but the other 6 days and 23 hours tell whether our faith is real. Do you demonstrate love and compassion? Do your words build others up? Do you speak freely and honestly about your faith? Do you have questions about what God teaches us in the Bible? Are you in a study that helps you answer those questions (and often raise more)?

The world is a scary place; God’s peace and love are the answer.

And don’t forget to Bee A Disciple!



*Pastor Barre*