

Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'"
(Luke 22: 14-16)

Jesus loved being with His disciples. He loves being close to those who place their trust in Him. It's part of God's nature to desire intimacy and relationship with people. This particular Passover meal was especially dear to Jesus because of what He was about to endure, and because it would be His final time of closeness to His disciples, at least while He was still in His humbled state of humanity. Jesus "earnestly desired" this special time with His disciples. The time was coming when He would be separated from them. In fact, He has told them that where He was going they could not come. What He was about to do He had to do alone, because He was the only One who could do what needed to be done.

Today is Maundy Thursday. It doesn't feel like it, does it? Partly because we have "other things" on our minds these days. And also because we will not be physically gathering together tonight for our Maundy Thursday worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper with its special Maundy Thursday meaning. We are in the midst of "social distancing." And so, we are looking forward to our great "reunion" when we can worship together again. Jesus was looking forward to the special REUNION that He would have with His disciples and all believers when the Kingdom of God is fulfilled!

For now, we wait. We wait in much the same way that we wait for the time of "social distancing" to come to an end, even though it will happen little by little. But we are hopeful that that time will come. For now we do what we can to keep in touch with one another: phone, text, FaceTime, or whatever. Thank God for these technologies.

While we are waiting for the great Reunion with Jesus on the Last Day, we can stay in touch with Him in the next best way ... spending time in His Word and in prayer. These aren't quite the same as what we will experience when we are able to be with Him physically, but they do keep us close to Him. (I hope you have not forgotten about these ways of staying close to Jesus.)

The time will come when we will be able to make use of the Lord's Supper together once again. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus literally is IN TOUCH with us through the bread and the wine, through which He gives us His Body and Blood, not only for the sake of being close to us, but also as one more way to say, "Your sins have been forgiven!"

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim