

TMUC Worship from Home – May 17, 2020

Reflection by Jeff Cook

We're all in this together – that is one of the realities and one of the learnings as humanity confronts COVID-19.

We're all in this together –

One of my experiences of 'we're all in this together' happened about 40 years ago. The older brother of one of my high school friends, had his pilot's license and was a member of the Brantford air club. To celebrate another friend's engagement, a few of us decided to fly to Toronto for supper. We lived in Brantford, about 100 kilometres west of Toronto. So, late one afternoon, we took off in a six-seater plane from Brantford and landed at the Toronto Island airstrip. We took a water taxi to the mainland (this was before the construction of a pedestrian walkway connecting the island and the shore). We had supper and returned to the dock area, only to discover that we were about 15 minutes too late and the water taxis were no longer operating for the evening. Fortunately, one of our group was a police officer, who flagged down the harbor police, showed them his identification, and they ferried us to the island.

We arrived back at our plane, the pilot climbed on board, and then said something along the lines of "Oh no!!!!!" One switch had been left on, draining the battery! The pilot did whatever pilots do, and managed to get the engines started, but we had no running lights. We also had no runway lights...however, the pilot could see the CN tower, so used it as a reference point, and we took off towards it. Once in the air, the pilot reminded us that we had no lights, therefore any other planes probably wouldn't be able to see us easily, so we all were to look out the windows, watching for anything that might be flying near us.

We landed safely back in Brantford. We had been in the plane – together, we had trusted the pilot's skill and experience, but the pilot also trusted us to stay alert.

Jesus told his friends, his disciples, that they were all in it together, together with each other, with Jesus and with God – together were creating God's world.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "The Son of man can do nothing by himself," and "I can do nothing by myself."

He says to his disciples, "If you love me..." Yes, yes, then what – we'll get a promotion, God will bless us with fame and fortune, we get to be on the God all-star team?

Jesus explained, "Loving me is not about what you get, but who you can become – words made flesh, embodied commandments: my commandments – that you love one another as I have loved you (loved all of you as I loved any one of you, loved anyone of you as I loved all of you), my commandments that you forgive, that you heal, that you welcome all..."

If you love me, then we are never separated – you are in me, I am in God. Because I live, you will be alive with God's love, with my life of compassion and healing. I will be your pilot, and you will be my ever watchful and ever faithful companions.

In this time when we are urged to stay at home, perhaps we should recall that where we live is in a house, an apartment, a shelter, a park bench, which is in a certain neighbourhood, in a certain city, in a province, in a country, in a continent, in a world, in a galaxy, in a universe...in God.

As those who love Christ, let us during this coming week be alert to notice the ways God's love lives and is expressed in ourselves and others, and let us remember that always we dwell in God, we are at home in Christ, and God's love is shared through us. We are in this life together. AMEN