It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood… was great to have Whitney join us for this morning’s Thursday Zoom…we shared prayer requests for health, grief, geographical distance from parents, grandparents, friends, upcoming medical tests and surgeries and thanksgiving for the Easter flower cross and for all the small, daily positives of these days.

We read the lectionary text for this Sunday in preparation for Berry’s sermon and shared insights—like the disciples locked up in the house afraid of the Jews, we are also “locked up” at home with our various fears and concerns. Interesting that Jesus tells his friends three times, “Peace be with you”—words we near to hear. Al shared from one bible commentary—“Faith is a mystery of the heart that the mind wants to solve.” Neat to read and interpret the scripture together and see familiar faces.

Ten minutes after our Zoom my doorbell rang—daughter Ashley-Anne sent groceries via Raleigh, NC, and Publix here—breakfast stuff and fruit and 36 bananas!! She ordered 4—so my afternoon project was sharing bananas with the neighbors-was hoping someone was going to make banana bread to share with this lonely senior but no luck so far.

During this time of required sabbath, as we rest restlessly, may we pause to give thanks for all our essential neighbors on the front lines—doctors and nurses, truck drivers and mail carriers, grocery clerks, first responders, restaurant employees, sanitation workers…

May the lonely get surprise calls and care packages, may tired parents and bored kids make fresh memories, may frustrated spouses see each other wonderfully made, may all of us experience God’s sufficient grace for the day.