

February 16, 2020
Live Life, Love Life

First Reading ~ Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Today I have set before you life and success, or death and disaster. For today I command you to love YHWH, your God, to follow God's ways and keep the commandments, the laws and customs. If you do, you will live and increase, and YHWH, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, by loving YHWH, your God, by obeying God's voice, and clinging to YHWH. For that will mean life to you a long life in the land which God swore to give to your ancestors, to Sarah and Abraham, to Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Maya Angelou*

Since the age of two I've been waltzing up and down with the question of life's meaning. And I am obliged to report that the answer changes from week to week. When I know the answer, I know it absolutely; as soon as I know that I know it, I know that I know nothing. About 70 percent of the time my conclusion is that there is a grand design. I believe that the force that created life is betting that human beings will do something quite wonderful-- like live up to their potential. I am influenced largely by Blaise Pascal and his wager: Pascal advises us to bet on the toss of a coin that God is. If we win, we win everything. If we lose, we lose nothing.

I'm looking out a large window now and I see about 40 dogwood and maple and oak and locust trees and the light is on some of the leaves and it's so beautiful. Sometimes I'm overcome with gratitude at such sights and feel that each of us has a responsibility for being alive: one responsibility to creation, of which we are a part, and another to the creator-- a responsibility we repay by trying to expand our areas of comprehension, and living life more fully and abundantly.