

2020-11-06 Refresh and ReNEWS

Dear Church,

What a week! Between a pandemic, ongoing racial unrest, and the uncertainties of a national election, it's hard not to feel anxious.

Speaking for myself, I slept little on Tuesday night with the election on my mind. Our daughters' elementary school is switching to full distance learning next week, so we stress over returning to having three kids at home all day. Meanwhile, some family health concerns contribute to further worry. It's all just too much to deal with at once, and it doesn't seem like there's an end in sight.

From what I hear from you, we all have similar concerns. Stress and anxiety seem to rule the day. Staying healthy is not guaranteed. And the ongoing results of the election have only highlighted the stark divisions within our families, communities, and our country. It can be easy to succumb to despair.

And yet, I keep clinging to hope. I may be naïve, but I have to believe that things will get better. I remind myself that God never promises to make our lives easy, but God DOES promise to be with us in the midst of our struggles: "*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" (Mt. 28:20). God is with you, surrounding you and filling you, friends! Draw comfort from the well of God's promises! God is inescapably present, just waiting for us to notice God in the midst of our busyness. If there ever was a time to lean on your faith, now is that time.

On a side note, THANK YOU for the warm welcome you gave me this past Sunday (as warm as possible, considering we worshipped outside!). It is a joy to be with you, and to be together as God's people as we strive to faithfully live in a world of uncertainty.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Christoph