

Thousands, maybe millions will die as a result of the COVID-19. So many funerals. Bucket loads of grief and grieving. This year we have lost a brother, younger, and a daughter, much younger, too young. Where is the justice in that? Why do the young die before their time and the old live on, creaking like us?

Years ago I undertook many years of theological study. The best professors taught me and an ordination came at the end. I had all the answers so I thought. Out in parishes I sat beside many beds where people suffered and passed away. And conducted many funeral services. All by the book.

But my experience of loss was still personal and real when it came to our family. It was expected of me to be strong and do the job I had been trained for. In regard to grief I had to develop a stiff upper lip. Six years of theological training surely prepared me for every situation. So I went on. Till one day the gloom became unbearable. And then our little dog became too arthritic to carry on. Our loyal companion through many years of good fun, walks, holidays together in our van. With a vet's sensitive counsel Angie was put to sleep. We brought her home and buried her in our garden, always with us. But still I was not able to clear the gloom from my mind and heart.

I went to a counsellor and was asked to share my personal experiences of family loss. When I came to our little dog Angie, I stopped and could not go. Silence, then I burst into tears. The wise counsellor said. "Angie has allowed you to grieve". I had never been able or allowed to do that. Funerals and other people's losses were my job. But from that day a load was lifted.

The loss of our brother and daughter is a terrible blow. Our grief is a work in progress. On Mother's Day our son-in-law who cared for our daughter so lovingly for two whole years presented my wife with a lovely rose. It is already planted and lovingly watered and cared for in our front garden. The name of the rose is —

Remember Me. And we do.

By Bill Pugh.

WEEKLY NEWS SHEET



Mount Martha Uniting Church



Sunday 9th August . 2020

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JOURNEY
OF
Faith

MOUNT MARTHA UNITING CHURCH.

SUNDAY. 9TH AUGUST 2020

READINGS . ROMANS 10: 5-15

MATHEW 14: 22-33

Becoming involved with the Sunday service

The Church Council met (by Zoom) last Thursday night. One of the things we talked about is having more people involved in the “production” of the service. We have in mind helping with the singing, doing the readings and leading the prayers. If you would like to be involved please email Karen at -karensimonsamlisa@yahoo.com.au or Paulo at paulokwajakwan@hotmail.com

Great idea from Karen.

We are going to trial a zoom morning tea at 11am on Sunday August 16th. To join the morning tea you need to click on this link <https://monash.zoom.us/j/93974623566?pwd=MjZab2lvUVFFNW5CdGZ1dFhva2JJUT09>

or, go to <https://monash.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 939 7462 3566 and password: 458863

Today's lovely hymns -

Immortal, Invisible, God only wise. Tis 143
Faith will not grow from words alone. Tis 691
Make me a channel of your peace. Tis 607



Minister's Reflection

This a continuation of Dietrich Bonhoeffer morning letter vbduring his toughest type of lockdown (prison). However, before copying and pasting what he says, in this week reading, Matthew 14:22-33 talks about a danger and fear of a situation given the image of water that frightened the disciples to the extent of doubting their faith. Where with Bonhoeffer, the lockdown lifted up his faith.

Quotation: “Anyone who is woken early by anxiety is told by scripture, 'It is vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil' (Ps. 127.2). It is not anxiety about the day, the burden of the work that I plan to do, but the Lord who 'wakens me morning by morning; he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught', as is said of the servant of God (Isa. 50.4). Before the heart opens itself to the world it must open itself to God. Before the ear perceives the countless voices of the day, it must listen in the early morning to the voice of the creator and redeemer. God has prepared the stillness of the earliest morning for himself. It must belong to him.

The daily word belongs before daily bread. Only in this way will we receive our bread with thanksgiving. Morning Prayer belongs before daily work. Only in this way is work done in fulfilment of the divine commandment. The morning must provide an hour for quiet prayer and shared reflection. This is truly not a waste of time. How else can we equip ourselves to meet the tasks, the needs and the demands of the day? And while we may not often be in the mood for it, it is a service we owe the one whose will it is to be called on, praised and prayed to by us, the one who wants to bless our day for us simply through his word and our prayer.” Amen.