

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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“Seeing God.” “No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and God’s love is made perfect in us.” 1 John 4:12. The Christian calendar reminds us that we are in the Easter Season. It is the season of doubt affirming Resurrection. It is the season of being fearful and terrified and finding peace in our lives and creation. The disciples who traveled with Jesus for three years are being transformed during the fifty day *“contemplation”* from Easter to Pentecost. They went to the tomb to find a body and God’s surprise becomes a message that even death has no power. It is Jesus’ appearances to the hidden and aimless disciples that finally becomes a message of *“Alleluia...Christ is risen INDEED.”* *SEEING GOD* filled them with Alleluia praise.

In John’s first letter, John declares that *“No one has ever seen God.”* The words following that declaration offer witness to *SEEING GOD* through love. In some ways I would argue with John that we see God everywhere because God is incarnate, present, known and seen in us and the creation. *SEEING GOD* is more than the figment of the imagination (*ghostly?*): it is real love, unconditional love that touches our minds, bodies and spirits. Since we have been created in the image of God, God is you, us, me, and creation, united together with all simplicity and complexity of every moment of life. We see God in beauty, good, bad, and ugly in the love that strengthens, comforts and affirms us in all conditions of life. It is *SEEING GOD* in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life and living. *SEEING GOD* is known in the acts of generosity, hospitality, in the listening to one another, in validating each other’s gifts and graces that are blessings that bless one another.

SEEING GOD. We continue to deal with pandemic issues. In just over one year our lives have been changed and a new normal is happening. Festering undercurrents of racial discrimination are festering and need to be addressed. Accountability and responsibility should guide our conversations to understand what it means to be citizens and Christians with integrity and compassion for one another. It is *SEEING GOD* everywhere as resurrection power that continually makes all things new. John writes (vs. 20), *“This commandment we have from God: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.”* Simple acts of love bring extraordinary results. In those acts, God is seen as embracing us and creation as a real presence, touchable, visible and filling us with the resurrection spirit. *SEEING GOD* is our Alleluias as the family of God. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*