Third Sunday of Lent 2020

Coronavirus pandemic is taking its course. I am at the kitchen table; it is still dark outside. I have a candle burning, a Light in the darkness for me. I woke at 4am and finally started to write about 5am.

Today’s Gospel is the Samaritan woman at the well, a story we all know quite well! (No pun intended.) The long view I got today was that Jesus self-disclosed at the Well, as the Messiah, as someone who stayed ‘with them a while.’ Jesus stayed two days it says in the Inclusive Lectionary for today (John 4:5-42). This is to say that Jesus loved them, those he was not supposed to be with. They were unclean. He stayed two days.

We are living in turbulent times. We are living an experience that no one alive today has experienced; and it can be deadly. We have no guidance for this, nowhere to find the answers we seek and need. We are on our own, together, for the first time and can choose to experience it as sacred of fearful. I remember Mother Kae’s homily asking us if we would choose to hide and step away from our neighbor or move toward and help our neighbor. Will we see this as sacred or fearful? The phone is handy: Let’s talk to each other, check on each other, help each other, support and give hope to each other, pray together. Only each of us can decide which way to live. Jesus commanded us to love one another as Jesus loved us. Jesus said:

# “I give you a new commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.

# Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

# By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,

# if you have love for one another” (New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) John 13:34-35)

# and

# “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

# You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything

# that I have heard from my Father.” John 15:13-15 (NRSV)

# You will be hearing from Rosean and me or one of our ministry leaders regularly. Call any of us.

# We are praying for you, our community and the world of the Incarnation.

# Faith, Hope, and Love. And the greatest of these is Love,

# Deacons Rosean and Jane