

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Have No Fear" 5/31/23

*We will not fear when earthquakes come and  
the mountains crumble into the sea. (Ps 46:2)*

Earthquakes are – unsettling. The ground beneath us is quaking. Things clatter and crumble and crash. Everything is out of control. The earth rattles, our hearts pound, our minds whirl – protect others, save self, run, duck, hide, is there a safe place – anywhere? This is it!

Into this, God speaks, “Fear not!” Easy for you to say, I’m scared. Come and listen, this is important. God is with us, so we do not have to be afraid. Yes, earthquakes happen, at times our lives are unsettled, our apple carts get tipped over, our plans go awry, but God comes into the chaos and stays there with us.

FDR said we have nothing to fear but fear itself. God tells us to fear not. We manage to not listen to either great leaders or God. Fear is paralyzing. It stifles growth, stops us from accomplishing great things, or even small things. Fear freezes us in our tracks. It stops us from even trying.

On the first day of the week, following the crucifixion of Jesus, when the women went to the tomb, the earth shook. Was this the end of the world? It, the resurrection of Christ, the rolling back of the stone, the tearing of the curtain, were all signs of God’s presence with us. They represented the removal of what stood between humans and the Divine, the things which kept us from seeing God, from being in His presence, from the peace of knowing God - is with all of us. It shook the earth. It was unsettling – things were going to change, and that word shakes us to our core.

Christ has risen, do not be afraid. God is with us, just as He promised. All barriers have been removed. What do we allow to remove us from this promise, from this reality? What stands in the way of our having God’s peace? Do not allow yourselves to feel alone. We do not need to be afraid to face tomorrow. We will do it with the strength God gives to us, with the comfort of His presence, and with the help of others who will come into our lives and offer to journey with us. We’ve all been there, not wanting to stand still, but too scared to move, feeling all alone in the world.

Christ is risen for you, for the sad, for the curious, and for those who see and believe – but don’t understand. “God has said, ‘I will never leave you. I will never abandon you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear.’” (Heb 13:6)

## **Please pray with me.**

LORD, You are my Shepherd, I shall not want. You make me lie down in green pastures; You lead me beside still waters; You restore my soul. You lead me in right paths for Your name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

**Amen.**