

My Liberty family,

It's very easy to feel out of control in these times. Nietzsche described life as "a dangerous across, a dangerous on-the-way, a dangerous looking-back, a dangerous shuddering and stopping." Life is hard, and here in the West we've largely forgotten how bad it can get. We've been sheltered. And when you've had it so good, it can be hard when you suddenly find yourself thrown into the chaos head-first.

Peter had that issue when Christ was arrested. How good did he have it during the three years with The Son of God? Can you imagine anything better than that? To have been witness to miracles and to healings and even to the resurrection of the dead (John 11). Peter was even the recipient of a miracle when Christ healed his wife's mother (Mark 1:29-31). Three years with Christ on earth, every day must have been a wonder!

Possibly the greatest thing that Peter saw was the transfiguration of Christ, coupled with the appearance of Moses and Elijah (Mark 9:2-8). That must have been unforgettable.

Until it was forgotten. Jesus was arrested, then He was tried, and then Peter denied Him three times (Mark 14:66-72), even though he had expressed his resolve to die for Christ (Mark 14:29-31). Then Christ was crucified. What happened to Peter? How could he forget all he'd seen over the prior three years?

Peter got caught between the cross and the tomb. There is a chasm between a promise made and a promise fulfilled, a chasm of time. Peter got lost in the moment, and the moment was horrible! He lost sight of what he knew, what he believed and what he had seen, and he let himself be carried away by terror and panic.

Christ has made us a promise, the same promise He made to Peter, and the same one He made to Martha:

**(John 11:25-27 KJV) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.**

Right now, we are caught between the cross and the tomb, between our faith in the sacrifice of Christ and our own resurrection from the dead. In the meantime, life must happen, with all its uncertainty, its suffering and its pain. We're not unlike Peter, and we're prone to forget about the promise made to us and to instead concentrate on our current problems. But we are to find suffering in life, both for His namesake and from life in general, and that's OK, because part of what Christ promised us is this:

**(John 16:33 KJV) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

Concentrate on Christ, both in the good times and the bad, in pleasure and in suffering. Paul said it better than I ever could:

**(Philippians 4:11-13 KJV) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

I am of the feeling that once this current crisis passes, we're looking at a forthcoming revival in the US, if not the world. I think the revival will be physical, economic, and most importantly, Godly. I will pray for that; I hope you will too. Stay strong in Christ. We love you and we'll see you soon.

James, Holly and Heather



Visit the FCNC website (<https://www.friendschurchnc.org/fcnc-online>) for links to area meetings that have uploaded video or offer live-streaming of worship services.

If you've been past Liberty Friends Meeting recently, you may have noticed that the roof is completed, and the sign refurbished! Our thanks to Art Jordan for his work in coordinating the repairs. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our fellow meetings for their kind offers of support following the February tornado.

### **Pandemic**

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected

in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar, March 11, 2020