

April 5, 2020

Dear Wilmore FMC Family,

Well, we've had our time of worship here at the Diddle home via computer / TV screen and YouTube, and we've had breakfast / brunch.

I find I don't like to watch myself speak. You poor people have to do it every week. :-)

I suppose we are all learning new things in these days; "forced innovation" it's been called.

A big word of thanks to my brother, Jerry, who is doing the video editing - putting the different elements of the services together. Thanks Jerry!

I hope you have a worshipful and restful Lord's Day today. In these weeks of worship-at-home, Annette, the boys and I have been taking Sunday drives in the afternoons - something my dad and mom would occasionally do with us when I was a child. Three weeks ago we drove east, two weeks ago, west, last week we made it only as far as the Peterson's farm (ha), and today we drive south to explore Kentucky.

You don't have to look far to see that there is a lot of fear in our world. Yet it's in days like this that Christians can really shine for Christ. I find Paul's words to the Romans playing again and again in my mind: *"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living."* It's this confidence in life or in death that gives Christians our confident witness of joy and calm. Even though we die, we live. So we have no reason at all to fear.

Finally, here is a prayer for today by Marcia Burgess:

Praying from an Old Testament Psalm with New Testament seasoning:

Our Father in Heaven, Holy is your name.
Father, you have searched us and know us.
You know when we sit down and when we rise up;
You understand our thoughts from afar.
You scrutinize our path and our lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all our ways.
Father, you know it all!
Where can we flee from Your Spirit?
Or where can we flee from your presence?
How precious also are Your thoughts to us, Father!
How vast is the sum of them!
Search us, Father, and know our hearts;
Try us and know our anxious thoughts;
And see if there is any hurtful way in us,
And lead us in the everlasting way.
It is in the name of your Beloved Son, Jesus, we plead.
Amen

Blessings All,

Pastor Daryl