

Dear Friends

One of the problems we encounter during an consuming time such as this is that we run the danger of thinking this is all there is to us. All we are is a people in a pandemic. It becomes all we hear about, all we think about, all we talk about. But we are more than this.

I was made to think about this last night when a horrible evil in Nova Scotia pushed the COVID 19 crisis from the top story on the news. The account of the senseless death of at least 17 innocent people jolted me into remembering that there remains much that is difficult and in need of healing in this world God so loves apart from the pandemic. We can all pause this week and hold those grieving families and that violated community in our prayers.

Tomorrow is Yom Hashoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day and if we were worshipping together this past Sunday we would have held up our need to recall the evil that human beings are capable of and of our high calling to work with people of all faiths and nations so that such atrocities never happen again. We are more than what is happening in our own lives.

As a community we are more than what we are presently enduring. We are a diverse and intriguing group of people. We are celebrating birthdays and calling old friends. We are caring for our parents and teaching our children. We are learning new recipes and pulling out some old favorites. We are everything we were before the crisis began and yet somehow even more.

Ecclesiastes 3 says that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. We find ourselves in a strange and precarious time. But we are more than what this time is requiring of us. Indeed, we are the sum total of all the times we have experienced that have made us wiser, stronger, more loving, and more compassionate. We are more than this. We are children of God.

Grace and peace,

Michael