

<sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Do not complain against one another, my friends, so that God will not judge you. The Judge is near, ready to appear. <sup>10</sup>My friends, remember the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Take them as examples of patient endurance under suffering."

James 5:8-10 Good News Translation (GNT)

I love the book of James – it is said to be most Jewish of the New Testament books. It is full of practical advice!

"You must be patient" – talk about telling someone something they don't want to hear! Children are told to be patient; mom is busy right now. Young people, tweens, college students are told to be patient for a variety of things, and then there are those of us of a certain age that struggle with patience. In these days, sitting at home, as ordered by the Governor, we are all impatient – our weekly outing to the grocery store causes high anxiety because the things we need or want are not available. We want to be back in our church building, living our lives normally, not worrying about toilet paper and such things, but we **must** be patient.

We may mutter under our breathes, *it's not fair!* Our fears today cause us to sometimes be judgmental. James tells all of us to be patient and to keep our hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near. He must have had a different definition for the word "near"! We are still waiting! I believe the point is that we do not know when the day of the Lord's coming will be, it is in God's time not ours. God's "near" and our "near" are two completely different ideas. No matter when it arrives, during our patient waiting time we are not to complain against one another. James says remember the prophets, but I would add, remember the stories of the Bible to help us all be patient.

Let's focus on the positive things that are happening. We hear on the news, on Facebook, and from friends about others stepping up to the plate and helping others. St. Andrews's continues to be strong in contacting each other.

Yes, we are all suffering from the loss of our normal days, but it is nothing compared to what others are suffering in other places in the world, or those who have the coronavirus, or those who are suffering from the loss of loved ones.

Keep your hopes high, follow the rules, *wash your hands*, and **rejoice** that we will all be together again!

Let us pray:

Holy One, You are our comfort and strength in times of sudden disaster such as we face these days. Surround us now with Your grace and peace through this storm of health chaos. By Your Spirit, lift those who have fallen, sustain those who work to comfort and heal, and fill us with the **hope** of Your new creation, through Jesus Christ our rock and redeemer. Amen

*Pastor Linda*