

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.
Proverbs 23:18

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*
Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

Mark, Elizabeth, and I (along with Raven, Elizabeth's college roommate and best friend) are all hunkered down together in our home during this pandemic. Each evening over dinner we have begun a tradition of sharing our highs (something great that happened that day), lows (something disappointing or frustrating that happened that day), and horizons (something in the future to which we are looking forward). Naming highs and lows are easy for me, but the horizons are very challenging.

So many of the big events to which I was looking forward have either been cancelled or postponed indefinitely to include Elizabeth's graduation from Furman, a continuing education event for progressive preachers across the country, and a trip to Europe with Trinity friends to see the Passion Play this summer. Before the pandemic, those were my horizons, the things to which I was looking forward. But now, I am not sure what positive, favorable thing it is safe to anticipate. I am hesitant to look too far into the future, a future that most days seems so uncertain.

I am learning to look forward to simple things, things in the very near future that I can almost certainly control like tacos for dinner, or watching the movie "Yesterday" (which we all loved), or making S'mores in the evening, or anticipating an Amazon delivery. I also think that God is using this time to teach me how to live in the moment, how to fully embrace and accept whatever is happening right now, without looking too far into the future. This is not my nature. I tend to always be planning for the future and because of that tendency, I sometimes miss out on the beautiful things that are happening right now. But in these days, I am learning to be content in the moment, to accept that each new day is a gift. No more is promised. Just this day. I am trying to live it to the fullest, to savor each moment, each small accomplishment, each shared laugh, shared meal, shared walk, or shared joy. In spite of my stubbornness, God is using this time to continue shaping me into the person God wants me to be. And I am learning to trust that God holds my future, my family's future, and Trinity's future. And for this day, that is enough.

May God sustain you with hope, hope for the beautiful future God has in store for each of us.

With lots of hope,
Pastor Susan Crowell

