



## A Faith for “Unprecedented Times”

*October 21, 2020*

Over the past six months, I’ve been guilty of over-using the phrase “unprecedented times.” I know I am saying those words too often, but every week they seem to become even more true.

One of the gifts of Christian faith is that we belong to a story that is larger than any of us. We belong to a story of faith that has lived through “unprecedented times” before. Each era is new, but we can be secure in the knowledge that our faith that has been tested by turmoil and trauma and was not found wanting.

Christian faith survived the might of the Roman Empire, the authority by which Jesus was crucified, and it has endured the rise and fall of every other empire along the way. Hymns to God have been sung through eras of plague and famine, and the prayers of our scriptures have been remembered through times of revolution and war.

The faith of Jesus has survived even those “unprecedented times” when the church itself was the source of terror, as it was during the Crusades, the Inquisition, the burning of heretics, and wars between Protestants and Catholics.

Through it all, still we return to the carpenter from Nazareth whose way of love is so compelling, so life-changing, so powerful that it holds the redemption of this wide world.

Still we return to one who did not hold worldly power, but held the power of truth that pierces through the illusions of sin and separation and draws us more closely to God.

Still we return to the God who met Moses on the mountain,  
the God who met Esther in a time of corrupt political power,  
the God who raised Jesus from the tomb.  
We return to the God who meets you – right where you are.

Let us hold fast to faith. In these unprecedented times, may God make of our lives a testament to God’s steadfast love.

*Peace,*

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Senior Minister