

Dear Friends,

Birds are singing, grass is greening, through it all, towards love I'm leaning.

I am reading a series of Essays by Wendell Berry (The Gift of Good Land: Further Essays Cultural and Agricultural). In the current essay, he speaks about our society relying on technology to make us more productive and efficient, even at the expense of the soil, the plants, the animals, families, communities, the nation, and ultimately the planet itself, rather than focus on what is healthy for all and everyone. (Written in the late 1970's)

I wonder how that applies to our church and our faith. On one level, a personal one, with my fibromyalgia, it is hard for me to have any routines for exercise or even in prayer, for I don't know when I am going to be in pain or when my brain fog is going to set in and all I can do is watch tv (something passive). Part of the struggle is that I am part of a society that prioritizes entertainment and consumption and I often pick up my iPhone or surf my 4 or 5 streaming services when I should be praying/breathing/connecting with God/neighbor/world. I know that it is healthy for me to spend some time in prayer and turn off the gadgets, but it is easier not to. Some days I do better than others, as well as weeks, months, and seasons. Once again, I am trying to make this a more regular practice and ground myself. Will I succeed? I hope so.

On the world level, we have two competing paradigms of consumption/economic/wealth versus rights/good-evil/black and white. Wendell Berry suggests that if we focus on health, the health of the soil, the farmer, the community, the people, the nation, the air and water; then focus of wealth and ethics would serve the health all of things, rather than an afterthought or lame acknowledgement that this is just the cost of doing business.

What can we do as a church, a community of people concerned about our world, to create health in all things and in everyone? What can we do to help each other be healthier in mind, spirit, heart, and body?

Peace