

## A SPIRITUAL ACT

Maybe it is a spiritual act. The more I think about it, pray about it, and live through it, I am starting to believe that “social distancing” is also a spiritual act. While we are forced to separate ourselves from others, we are also brought closer in our search for understanding of each other and ourselves. In our memory of friendships in church and community, of family gatherings, of being together, it becomes clear that the basis of all we do is a spiritual act, because God is present in all things, wherever we are.

God is with us in all that we do. Whether we are struggling through difficult times or celebrating in good times, God is there. Last Saturday we celebrated graduation with three of our COS graduates (Brian Carroll, Carmen Cook, and Dan Eggan), we heard the scripture exegeted by Rev. Dr. E. Wray Bryant, and we remembered Jesus’ last meal as we shared bread and drink, in our distance. We sang and prayed with tears and laughter, all while social distancing with Zoom technology. I will admit, it has taken me awhile to get comfortable with the environment of social media but with the expertise of Grace Wallace and Lori Douglas Weaver, our worship time is becoming spiritual time. It seems strange to say this, but I came away from that service feeling connected even in our distance from one another. But why should that seem strange, since God is in all things? Whether we are together or separated, we are in community and God is there.

What I am saying is that while we are making our way through these “corona times,” do not lose heart. We will all get tired of learning what “social distancing” means in our lives, and we will hear many complaints and conspiracy theories, but in the end, we must return to the One who called us and listen to the voice that speaks through chaos and division. Return to me, God says, for I am the one who redeemed you (Isaiah 44:22). God knitted us together before we were born (Psalm 139), and God continues to knit us together.

May God bless you and guide you as you find new ways to guide your churches in the spiritual act of social distancing.