

July 17, 2020

A Sign of the Times

Maybe you have seen some funny church signs during this time, for example: “Six feet apart today is better than six feet under tomorrow” or “Jesus rode an ass into Jerusalem, keep yours at home” or “Services cancelled; God’s making house calls.” People are trying to keep spirits up during this time when the death tolls are rising, particularly in southern states. I know we are growing weary of this “new normal.”

Jesus says, “There is only one sign I’m going to give you: the sign of the prophet Jonah” (Luke 11:29 or Matthew 12:39). Sooner or later, life is going to lead us, as it did Jesus, into the belly of the whale, into a situation that we can’t fix, can’t control and can’t explain or understand. That’s where transformation most easily happens. That’s when we’re uniquely in the hands of God.

Right now, it seems the whole world is in the belly of the whale together. But we are also safely held in the loving hands of God, even if we do not yet fully realize it. The “new normal” is a paradoxical time and a fertile time. Let’s use this time to be creative as we discern how to live into the life after the whale has spit us out on shore.

If you could design a “sign,” what would it say?

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