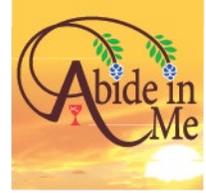


Communion Meditation

By Jeffery Murphy, hospital chaplain



In my work as a critical care chaplain I see families going through some of the most difficult, most anxious, darkest days in their lives. Often people ask me what you say to someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one or who is fearful that a loved one will not survive. I tell them that is the wrong question. What I say really is not important. What is important is my ability to be present with people who are frightened or struggling or grieving or celebrating good news. It is not any word of wisdom that I share. It is whether I can share that fear or hurt or joy with the family. My job is not to share great words. It is to help people know that they are not alone in their struggles.



So long ago Jesus sat with the disciples as they faced a time of uncertainty. He told them that he would be leaving them. But he also told them to love another. He also said, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” Even though Jesus would no longer physically be with them, his love would remain and through that love they would abide in him and he would abide in them. And they would have each other to share each other’s burdens and celebrations.

We still remember that when we come to the Table of Holy Communion as Jesus’ disciples in this age. We remember that Jesus’ body was broken, and his blood was shed. But we also remember that through that sacrifice, Jesus’ love remains in us and through us. And we remember that we are not alone. We are one Church, one Body of Christ. Together we are one abiding in the love of Jesus our Savior. Let us come to the Table to be present with Jesus, to allow Jesus to be present with us, and to be present with one another as a family of God. Let us remember our Lord together.

Jeff is one of many Chaplains endorsed and served by Disciples Home Missions. Your gifts to the Easter offering support DHM, which makes Jeff’s ministry possible.