

# WALK IN LOVE

as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Ephesians 5:2



## Reflection by the Rev. Cass Bailey –

“This will give you an opportunity to testify.”

We don't hear the words “witness” or “testify” a lot in the Episcopal Church, but to witness simply means to bear testimony, to tell what you have seen and heard. In a legal proceeding that is what a witness does. He or she tells what they know to be the truth.

As Christians we testify when we tell others what God is doing in our lives. The benefit of this practice is not self-promotion, but rather that the faith of others is encouraged. There certainly have been many times in my faith journey when I have heard others talk about God's actions in their lives and I myself have been encouraged and my faith revived.

I am willing to bet that most of us Christians can come around to agreeing that telling someone else how a prayer has been answered or how we have come to experience God in a new way is a good thing, but what about when something bad happens? After all, when bad things happen it is a perfectly natural response to want to find some alone time to process things. Jesus doesn't condemn this response, but the passage for today does remind us that tragedy strikes us all.

In fact, the scene that the text paints is one of extreme distress,

all-out war, persecution of Christians, famine and a host of other calamities. Jesus tells his disciples that even when the world comes to an end, literally or symbolically, there is an opportunity both to find God and help others to find God through our testimony.

Recently, it seemed like my world was coming to an end when I experienced the long, slow death of a son who was only twenty-one years old. There were times when God seemed distant if there at all. During those times when I couldn't find God myself I had to rely on the witness and testimony of other Christians. It was the testimony of other Christians which helped me see that God was indeed present, even if I could not see that at the time.

I think the real key to witnessing to the presence of God is the ability to trust that God is indeed present in all things. This doesn't mean that we understand all that is happening or know why it is happening but rather that we trust that God does.



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Proper 28 | Luke 21: 5-19

November 13, 2016



## Reflection Questions

- In what ways has your faith been challenged?
- How have you found support in the testimony of others?
- How have you recently testified to God's activity in your life?
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