

Dear Church Family,

Scot and Christine are leading you in worship this week. As I listened to the songs that God put on their hearts to share with you this week, so many lyrics are sinking deeper into my heart than ever before.

Why am I hearing them in a new way? - because of the context in which I find myself. This context of pandemic - in the midst of its challenges and griefs, there are also invitations from God. I think for me, one of those invitations is to notice. I'm noticing things about God, about others, and about myself. This disruption to my regular busy life is holding up a mirror to me, when I'm brave enough to look.

In "real life" I often avoid looking in the mirror because the image there often doesn't match the one I have of myself in my head. It shows me flaws that I'd rather pretend didn't exist. I find myself doing the same thing in my spiritual life. I often avoid looking too closely (or for too long) at the inner Margaret for fear of what might be revealed. And the busy-ness of life is a more than willing co-conspirator in keeping me distracted.

But God, He just keeps putting things in my path for me to notice. I'm reminded of Jesus' words that would follow so many of his parables: "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

The Spirit whispers to me:

"Did you notice...? Did you hear...? Did you see...?"

And now, what will you do...?"

Remember, I'm here to help you. You don't need to be afraid. I love you. I am with you. Even in the painful things, I'm working to restore you and transform you. My grace is sufficient for you."

What are you hearing, as you journey with Christ?

Don't be afraid to look, to listen, and to allow the Spirit into those places in your soul that need transformation. Grace and peace to you, my sisters and brothers.

UCCC Video Link: <http://www.unioncenter.org/files/unioncenter/Sermons/2020/20200524-Worship.mp4>

Playlists

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/333tphxsVI6NfrhWfODIVX?si=E7STGK-zTPKdaevxOSGhTA>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/playlist/uccc-05-24-20/pl.u-LdbqEpdtx2WP8P>

YouTube Videos (w/ lyrics):

My Lighthouse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J32hCTVAIQ>

Fade Away <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWjSmlpbbW0>

God You're So Good <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMji7TypHOI>