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Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. NRSV

Reflection

Salt is great! It's one of the reasons you can't eat just one potato chip. The starch and fat don't make it any easier. Salt affects everything in which it is found. Salt is in almost everything we eat. The stuff is everywhere. And almost all of the time salt makes things better.

COVID-19 is a little bit like salt. It's everywhere, but it does not make things better. We would just as soon it lose its COVID-19iness, be thrown out and trampled under foot. That may have to wait.

The light metaphor in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is more positive. Right now the world needs light more than ever. People and politicians are arguing about

statistics, the availability of testing and whether re-opening the economy is a good idea or bad idea. It is difficult not to get pulled into the vortex.

We are in a unique position to offer light these days. The light on a hill guides our feet, gives us direction and fills us with hope. God's light is above the conflicted fray reported in the news each day. God's light is a reminder that God was with us in the past. God is with us now. God will be with us in the future.

I'm trying not to be a "Pollyanna" in this discussion. COVID-19 casts a long shadow. As we struggle through this we can be a beacon of hope to our family members, neighbors and friends. Words like: "I am here for you. Is there anything I can do for you? It is so nice to hear your voice. Can I pray for you?" shift focus from fear to God's unfathomable love.

A city on a hill cannot be hid. Let's all look for that city on a hill together. Let's all be that city on a hill together.

Prayer

Holy One, you bring light into the darkness of our world. Warm our souls this day. Give us faith and courage to receive and to reflect your light. Salt the bland places of our souls. Shine love into the dark corners of our lives. Amen

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