



May 6, 2020

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. (Ps 1.1-6)

For most of my life I have envisioned a fruit tree when I think of this Psalm. There's usually some idyllic green grass next to a gently flowing stream and an old fruit tree close to the river banks with boughs laden with beautiful fruit. A tree planted by streams of water. Fruitful. Vibrant. Prosperous. Healthy. The picture of a disciple who is rooted in the life of God.

But in 2018 while on my renewal leave, I did a solo road trip to a retreat center to the mountains of Colorado. On my way home I took a detour through Arches National Park. There, in the desert, with temperatures hovering around 100, I saw a tree growing out of the crevice in a rock. The tree was gnarled, twisted, and had its share of scars and dead branches. But there was more to this tree than its scars. It was strong looking, tenacious, and surprisingly green despite the harsh conditions.

I realized that for a long time I have been reading Psalm 1 incorrectly. The text says that the person who abides in God and his word will *be like* a tree planted by streams of water, not actually be planted by the water.

That's comforting to me because my life is a lot more twisted, gnarled, and dry than it is lush and easy. I've got my share of dead branches that are the result of dead ends I've chased or seasons of drought I've endured. I love the fact that out of a dry rock, the Lord can bring life and green and flourishing.

For many of us, this is a desert season of harshness and pain with a few flash floods of joy here and there. Isn't it good news to know that the Lord will see us through this season as we abide in him, no matter what the circumstances?

Lettered Streets Covenant Church

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How are you staying rooted in God during this desert season?

I would love to hear about what's working for you to remain close to Jesus. It would probably be encouraging for the church to hear as well so if you're willing to share, send me what's working for you via [email](#) or [text](#). If you're comfortable, consider sending me a short video explaining how you're staying rooted in Christ during this time.

Please see the Announcements and Updates section below for some new information about our upcoming congregational meeting and our all church retreat that had been scheduled for September.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Chris

Announcements and Updates

- Keep an eye out for home worship resources to be released **by 10am on Sunday** on our [website](#). We'll also send the link via email each Sunday morning.
- Save the Date! Our Congregational Meeting is scheduled for June 7th at 4pm. We'll send out a Zoom link the day before the meeting. At this meeting we'll hear a quick update from Pastor Chris and have the opportunity for partners to vote on Lead Team and Nominating Committee candidates.
- Re-Create, our all church retreat, has been cancelled for 2020. With financial pressures on many, and with the inability to predict the viability of border crossing and the camp's ability to host us, the Lead Team made the difficult decision to postpone the retreat for 2020.
- The 3-Year-Cycle will be pushed back a year, so we will have our all church retreat in 2021, our local service week in 2022, and our cross cultural service experience in 2023.
- Despite the cancellation of Re-Create, we will plan on a day long church retreat when we can do so safely. Hopefully by late summer or fall we'll be

free to meet together. At that point we'll plan a huge celebration at a park or camp so that we can play together as a community. Stay tuned!

- [Morgan](#) is coordinating care within our congregation. If you need help, or even someone to make a grocery store run, please contact Morgan.
- If you have prayer requests, please submit those [HERE](#).
- If you would like to set up a time to talk with pastor Chris, contact him directly [HERE](#).
- If you need financial help during this crisis please contact our Lead Team Chair, [Ryan Wasserman](#) or pastor [Chris](#).

What You Can Do

- Pray! We are seeing sick people recovering, anxious people finding deeper peace, and protection for our front line workers. Please continue to lift them, and each other, up in prayer!
- Stay home unless you are employed in essential services or must go out for supplies or well isolated outings for physical and mental health.
- [Stay in contact](#). If you're not feeling well (physically, emotionally, mentally) and are isolated at home, the staff wants to know so we can best care for you!
- Write cards to encourage the staff of the LH Mission, Food Bank, Hospital, WTA, or other frontline agencies. Thank your grocery clerk or take out delivery person.
- Watch out for each other. Check in with people. Write cards, make calls or send texts.
- Continue to give of your tithes and offerings as an act of worship and in support of the ministry of the church and the community by mailing a check to P.O. Box 5645 Bellingham, WA 98227 or by giving online, [HERE](#).

[Archive of LSCC COVID-19 Updates](#)