



*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound -
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.*

Dear Friends:

My computer desk faces the courtyard, that green space that separates the offices from the older portion of the Sunday School wing of the building. On weekdays during the school year those classrooms are occupied by the preschool, a beehive of noise and activity. Because I can be easily distracted I usually keep the blinds drawn on the window that otherwise gives me a direct view across the courtyard.

But now that the preschool is not inhabiting the building and things are almost too quiet, I opened those blinds. One thing I discovered was a cardinal's nest in the large pine bush just outside the window. Every once in a while that beautiful scarlet bird (overt reference to Ohio State) hops up on the window ledge and peers inside at me as if to say hello. I stop to take in his beauty and to thank God for this vision I had not seen before. Of course, the cardinal was there all along but I was unaware of it because I was afraid; fearful that opening the blinds would create an unwanted distraction that, in turn, would keep me from accomplishing my "real work."

I wonder what else we might be unaware of because we're too busy, or too preoccupied, or just too tired or apathetic to make the effort. I also wonder if changes in our lifestyles due to the coronavirus may open up new opportunities to see things we have been missing. Like the cardinal outside my office window, they were there all the time but we just didn't see them. Maybe this is one way God is at work. If so, we would do well to pay attention. What we were missing in the past may now become gifts that we will treasure.

What will God reveal to you today?

In Christ,

Pastor Chuck

Let us pray. Good and gracious God, you are the revealer of all things great and small. Help us to set aside the distractions that often clutter our lives, and open our eyes to the things that we really need to see. Thank you for these new visions. May they become for us constant reminders of your mercy and grace. Amen