Hi,

I hope you were able to be part of our worship this weekend. I think it is really remarkable what our worship team has been able to accomplish during this lockdown.

Here are today’s updates:

* **My Monday class on Matthew will meet today at 3pm** on my personal Facebook page. My Tuesday class on Genesis will meet tomorrow at 11:45, also on my Facebook page.
* The links to my on-line classes, the video recordings of the classes, the class audio podcasts, and the archive of these daily emails can all be found at [www.scottengle.org](http://www.scottengle.org/). All of this week’s videos and podcasts have been posted.
* Keep sending in those movie and book recommendations.

Here is another of Lauren Sandstedt’s messages that she is writing for the Parish Episcopal School community. Lauren is a Perkins Seminary student and will intern at St. Andrew over the summer.

***Lamentations 3:22-24***

***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”***

When I was a teenager, I had my wisdom teeth removed. To this day, if someone were to ask me what I remember of that experience, my response would be: the last few moments before the anesthesia kicked in, the doctor’s voice faintly reminding me to “Think of a happy place”. Next thing I remember, I woke up and spent my recovery eating pudding. Lots of pudding.

In Lamentations, an anonymous poet writes five chapters – mostly describing grief, confusion and suffering. The book serves as a protest to God as to why the world could be so difficult and broken. In the midst of this sad text, 3:22-24 is different. In fact, this is the only hopeful part in the whole book. When you stop and think about it, it is incredible that these words (penned over 2,500 years ago) are still being repeated today. . . crafted into songs, prayers, book titles, bumper stickers, billboards in the Bible belt states, you name it. Don’t believe me? Check out your local Cracker Barrel gift shop (CD’s with these songs thrive near the checkout counter). But why are these words so attractive? My answer: glory. They are glorious – there is no other way around it. There is a magnificence that lives within the certainty of them . . . a certainty that transcends confusion. “His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.” We all can recognize that the morning does indeed come every day. The sun rose yesterday. The sun rose today. And yes, the sun will rise tomorrow. This poet has the trust (despite massive grief and concern) that God’s promises are as certain as the morning that greets us.

Much like my wisdom tooth surgery, I imagine this poet being asked to “think of a happy place” for a minute . . . the outcome, Lamentations 3:22-24. Because while it is difficult to see certainty through confusion, grief or fear, there is indeed such assurance in God’s promises. The great hope is in the reminder that “the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases”. Never. Not during surgery, lay-offs, a struggling economy, illness. And most definitely not during Covid-19. Let us remember that when we allow God the worthy place of being our “portion,” we hope in full.

*Movie recommendation*

Patti and I sometimes enjoy watching film noir and *Double Indemnity* set the standard. Starring Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurray, and Edward G. Robinson, it is a well-told tale of schemes and murder. Directed by Billy Wilder, the movie is #29 on the AFI top 100 list.

*Book recommendation*

Stephen King’s *11-22-63* is a long read, but a good one. It is a time travel story about Lee Harvey Oswald and the Kennedy assassination. What would you do if you thought you might be able to prevent it? The novel was fascinating and I loved the ending. Give it a try. Full disclosure -- I listened to the book on Audible during my walks. 30 hours. Like I said, a pretty big book

‘til tomorrow, grace and peace,

Scott