

Who formed your faith the most when growing up? Who taught you the most about the faith? Was it a Sunday School teacher or a grandparent? Bring that person to mind for a moment, their name or their face. For me it's Mrs. Elting, my third grade Sunday school teacher...

We are so at risk of losing track of who we really are in this time of great tension and global crisis. If you are just reading the news everyday and not reading a daily devotional or doing a prayer practice or Sunday worship, you are at great risk of losing your faith. I am too. Yes, we must stay aware of the news of the world, but we must also stay rooted in our faith. Especially in these times. Religious people have a different way of seeing and moving and hoping in the world ...a way of being that is determined not just by what IS but by what ought to be, what could be, what the creator intends it to be.

Our faith, that is being formed all through our lives, is also at risk of being deformed all through our lives, especially in particularly arduous times. So come, Mayflower, let's go back to the stories we've been hearing all our lives; or for some, new to the faith, now, for the first time. The stories can save us...like the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes...like the letters sent to the earliest churches by Paul and others. The wisdom in these letters can shift our minds and jiggle our hearts and bring us back to the Jesus way...like in the letter we heard recently... the reminder to be impartial, to love everyone in the world, and to show that love by caring for everyone's needs, like food and vaccine....

Do you remember last March, how hungry you were for the vaccine? How you'd greedily search for any openings in the line? How you or your child would research any small lead for you? Some of us drove hundreds of miles to get the vaccine at some small drugstore in northern Minnesota. I remember waiting anxiously at my parent's assisted living facility in St. Paul to see if there was any vaccine left over. They said there might be. And leaving disappointed when they ran out. Then going back several weeks later, waiting anxiously again, and hearing someone say: "your up" and going into the temple, sitting down, rolling up my sleeve, trying to hold on to the cheerful banter of the vaccinator (they do this all day, of course they need cheerful banter) but then tearing up suddenly as the vaccine went into my arm, not from pain but from... what? relief?, gratitude?, hope?, no words for those tears... and the vaccinator smiled and her cheerfulness transformed into a quieter understanding and deep kindness. How precious was that moment! Do you remember that first vaccine? And the second one with a little more levity, not so much gravitas, but still.....We are so grateful to those priests of humanity administering the sacrament of vaccine, for the body of the person and for the entire body of

er before in our lifetime, how truly connected we are on this planet, because of this
emic. And yet, we've also experienced, as never before in our lifetime, the ability to lock
n and keep borders closed whether our country is an island like New Zealand or a part of a
inent like Canada. Yes, we are living this, what would have been inconceivable two years
this contradiction of our interconnectedness *and* our boundariedness.

Today is World Communion Sunday. To the "interconnectedness" we say "yes". To the
ndariedness", we say "no". "Get thee behind us Satan!". On this World communion
day let us confess what the demon covid has done to our hearts and minds, making us
tial to some and not others", as it is written in the letter James, constricting our vision,
ng out our whole sight, even causing us to hoard the life giving formula. On this World
munions let us remember that as Christians we are called to have a heart without
ndaries. Remember the person who taught you the most about the faith, the one whose
e or face you remembered earlier, your grandfather or your third grade Sunday school
her?... you know what they'd say: "Child! We are one creation. Love your neighbor as
self, the neighbor next door and the neighbor across the planet. Share your bread. There's
ugh for everyone." Yes, we got to shake ourselves out of this vaccine nationalism! I almost
like doing an altar call this morning. Come forward and say "yes, I remember, in the deepest
of my being, I'm a global citizen, a child of God"... and stomp out that inclination that says
erica first". On this sabbath day, on every sabbath day, remember these words. "Let us not
onformed to this world (the news of this world), but rather be transformed by the renewal
ur minds and hearts."

Do you know that 84% of doses that have been administered so far all gone to people in
and upper middle-income countries. And in comparison, looking at the percentage of doses
have been administered in low-income countries, it's a shockingly low 0.3%. At least these
e the numbers at the beginning of August. Again, for those who have ears to hear: 84% of
doses went to high and upper middle income countries, and 0.3%, not 3 % but 0.3% to low
me countries. This, despite the fact that there is enough vaccine to immunize the world
e over. This is not about a scarcity of vaccine. it's about inequitable distribution and
ding and political will.

Of course it is in everyone's self interest for everyone to get vaccinated as soon as
ible, because of Covid's propensity towards mutation. Also this global pandemic is affecting

everywhere possible to finish this arms race in our country. (Did you hear about New York? As the vaccination mandate went into full effect on Monday, 92 percent of the state's hospital and nursing home workers had received at least one vaccine dose. That was a significant increase compared to just a week ago, an almost 10% jump in one week!)

And the miracle continues... There is now enough to fully immunize the world twice over. Our leaders, led in large part by our leader, are coming together and promising to vaccinate 70% of the world by this time next year. A singular arms race for the entire world. Our leader is committed: that for every 1 shot given in the US, 3 shots will go to the rest of the world, donated, no strings attached.

It's kind of like today's bible story, the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The miracle is in the sharing, in seeing abundance and not scarcity, and sharing. We need to turn our attention to the whole world. To help spread the word about the vaccine, that there is enough for everyone. We need to have our leader's back on this. And to hold him accountable, we need to make him do what he really wants to do in his heart of hearts.

On this World Communion Sunday, may we all be transformed. Our eyes doctored with the spirit medicine with so that we no longer look out with hungry, greedy, hoarding eyes, but rather with eyes that can see the holiness everywhere.

• the bread and the ingredients, the wheat and yeast, and the fire that transforms.

• the wine, the grape and the reality of fermentation.

• the vaccine and the ingredients and the brilliance of the human alchemist.

• the communion line going forward for the bread of life (some day the holy lines here again will be a sanctuary)

• the vaccine line and the shot in the arm

• the "priests" of bread and wine and vaccine, those who give/distribute to everyone...

• the people who receive the elements into their bodies

• the tears

• the ingredients, the elements of creation

