

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Hymns at Home

November 8, 2020

Peace

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. (Charles Dickens)

What a week this has been, and what a year. I'll be honest, I don't have a long epistle in me at the moment, but I feel compelled to send out something. This past Wednesday, at noon, we had a prayer service on election day. We didn't pray for a particular candidate to win, we prayed for those who lead us, whoever they might be, we prayed for guidance, and we prayed for peace.

In the midst of this difficult time, it's easy to get discouraged, frustrated, down, and even depressed. I don't think we should try to ignore or dismiss those feelings, in fact I think it's healthiest to acknowledge them and, if necessary, to get the help and support we need to work through them. I'll confess that I've been feeling pretty depressed. I've also seen my child struggle with loss and grief, and as much as we've tried to shield him, he knows much of what's going on in our world today. I wish I could change things for his sake. Last weekend, on Halloween, I was thinking about how much different things were this year. A few families with young children on our street have moved away. There were fewer houses decorated. It just wasn't the same. I thought to myself, "this is the worst Halloween ever." And yet, while we put up decorations around our house and carved pumpkins, I was surprised to hear Aiden blurt out, "This is the best Halloween ever!" At least in his mind, he could remember some Halloweens in the past that caused more anxiety for him, for one reason or another. For some reason, this year just felt better. But the best ever? I don't know how he saw that, but he did. I learned something from him, and I remembered the words of Isaiah the prophet, "and a little child shall lead them."

Wednesday we sang one of my favorite hymns, one that is very appropriate right now, *O Day of Peace*. There is a link below to a recording. Listen. Better yet, sing!

O Day of Peace

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. 1982

Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6ONR20SnZY>

God be with you till we meet again.

John