

PEARCE CHURCH

PASTOR'S POST | April 7, 2023

Dear Pearce Family,

I would like to express my appreciation and love for the prayers, support, and encouragement Jeanne and I have received from our Pearce family over the last several weeks. We are blessed to be part of such a compassionate church family that cares for one another. I pray that the love we've received will be multiplied over and over in our care for one another and our commitment to engage the world with Jesus' love.

During my time in the hospital, I had some discouraging moments. The weight of illness, waiting for relief from pain, and the unknown aspects of recovery can take a toll physically and emotionally. While recuperating, I was walking the halls of the sixth floor of Highland Hospital to build my strength. Another patient was also walking, and we had a conversation. After sharing a bit of my story, she shared hers. I discovered that she has a disorder that has required her to have fifty procedures over the last fifteen years. She spoke of herself as a "frequent flyer" in that she is often in the hospital. She was ready to go home but had to wait until a special-order prescription could be filled that was in short supply (and very expensive).

My experience of hearing her story made me focus less on my own pain and struggle, and consider that others have a much more difficult time than us. I realized I had much to be grateful for – successful surgery, incremental improvement, hope for imminent release – while she had to endure more trial, probably for the rest of her life. I committed to praying for her.

As we remember Good Friday and celebrate the victorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter, let us remember that Jesus suffered for our sakes. He came to fully identify with our pain and took on himself the worst sort of suffering and death, even though he was the divine Son of God. While we go through life, we will undoubtedly face difficulties of varying degrees. And yet, no matter what we face, we can depend on Jesus who suffered, died, and was raised to life for us. Hebrews 12:1b-2 says, "And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

With Faith,
Pastor Todd