

hear me Edgewater

we really can become a certain kind of people in our world.

the kind of people who live in the Christ pattern of thinking and feeling and acting.

the kind of people who are working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

It is possible for us to see our lives in a whole new way.

the Psalms speak of a person who is like a tree planted by streams of water

which yields its fruit in season,

and whose leaf does not wither. —

whatever they do prospers'

do you know what trees that are deeply rooted and grounded do when

the wind and the rain and the storms come?

they bend,

they sway,

but they don't break,

and they don't topple,

they're so firmly planted in the soil of grace and peace,

that it's going to take way more than a little wind and rain to rob them of life.

you can set yourself on becoming this kind of person.

the kind of person who can write letters exploding with joy and wisdom.

the kind of person who resolves to find the grace and peace in any situation.

the kind of person who will not be crushed by circumstances.

the kind of person that always assumes that even in this situation.

in this tragedy.

in this desert experience.

in this failure and mistake and regret and nightmare.

there will be some sort of resurrection.

even in this...

the kind of person who doesn't grumble or complain; are we clear?

you can become the kind of person who doesn't grumble or complain

because you have a larger perspective. you shine like a star,

because you have decided to ground and center yourself in grace and peace.

you are unshakable, you are kind

you don't rush to judge situations because you know that surprises
are often just around the corner.

you don't blow your fuse, you don't fly off the handle,

you don't react at the slightest provocation or inconvenience.

you aren't weighed down by guilt from the past,

because you see your past through Christ.

everything you've been through is being retold through Christ.

the resurrection turns everything upside down.

it opens up all sorts of possibilities and puts all sorts of balls in play.

it invites all kinds of people to the celebration

as it announces that the last word has not been spoken.

so until then:

in our fear and trembling, our doubting and rejoicing,

our forgiving and being forgiven, our giving and receiving.

we have an open tomb.

a new creation.

and the heightened anticipation that there is more to be said...

how I long for all of you

to know,

to understand,

to live,

to experience,

to enjoy,

grace and peace...