

May 4th, 2020 Daily Devotional:

In between this morning's Zoom meetings, my office has been an outdoor one this morning. Dante, one of our dogs, has been doing his best to catch flying bugs, there's a lovely breeze, the birds are singing, and the warmth of the sun is delightful.

During a recent session meeting, someone commented on how talking daily walks and seeing the flowers budding can feel like a juxtaposition with all the grief and difficulty the world is facing. It's true...and yet it's all true. The new life is real and the grief is real.

As I have been sitting out here this morning I have been thinking about Rachel Held Evans and I've been craving her words in this time. If you haven't read any of Rachel's work, I encourage you to look her up - "Searching for Sunday" is a favourite of mine. On this day one year ago, Rachel passed away in a Nashville hospital room, surrounded by friends and family. Rachel was 37.

In her life and writing, Rachel called the church to be a more authentic expression of Christ's body. She called us to listen to one another and to widen the circle. In this time I am drawn to these words from Searching for Sunday...

"...if the world is watching, we might as well tell the truth. And the truth is, the church doesn't offer a cure. It doesn't offer a quick fix. The church offers death and resurrection. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation. The church offers grace. Anything else we try to peddle is snake oil. It's not the real thing."

Friends, may that amazing grace sink into your heart, mind, and soul today. Peace.

