

John 20: 19 - 31

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Chloie Madden & Brennan Seltzer, Seniors

Chloie: Do you believe in leprechauns? We don't.

Brennan: I don't believe that at the end of a rainbow there is a small green man with a giant pot of gold, but I do believe that a man went around performing miracles, died, and was resurrected from the dead.

Chloie: How are these different? Well Brennan and I think that seeing, in the physical sense, is different from believing. For the past three years we have attended and worked at Happening. If you don't know what that is first off, where have YOU been? But its basically a youth led episcopal camp-like weekend.

Brennan: There is something about the atmosphere at Happening that just allowed us to truly see all of God's love and presence in a space. Not just to see something in the physical sense, but to know and to understand something on another level. Whenever I looked around the room, I saw friends growing closer and strangers becoming friends. I had never experienced anything like that ever before. For me, the moments you could spend talking with other people your age without feeling any kind of pressure to be different allowed me to see God and Jesus throughout those weekends.

Chloie: For me, I see God's love in singing, dancing, and goofing off with some of my closest friends at Happening during the times when we were not expected to do anything. I am reminded God loves us just as much when we are goofy and playful as when we are being pious and serious. In those moments, I see God in each of them. Being with them brings me closer to God and strengthens my relationship with Him.

Brennan: Growing up at Calvary, we were always taught to love everyone, no exceptions, and that Jesus died on the cross for us. But, once we got a little older we started to search for that belief, that faith in God. And through Happening, in the singing and the talking and the dancing, we found that feeling of believing and trusting in God.

Chloie: We know that we will have doubts and question our faith. But in these times we can fall back onto communities like Happening, Calvary, and school and search for God in all those places and in all the people we meet there.

Brennan: During Happening, we were introduced to the affirmation "In all places, at all times, I see God in you, and ever since, I adopted this new definition of see. "In all places, at all times, I see God in you."

Chloie: Thomas did not employ our definition of see. He did not believe until he saw, until he placed his finger in the mark of the nails and his hand in Jesus' side. I think we are all like Thomas in a way. Our first instinct is to believe only in what we see.

Brennan: Thomas believed in Jesus' resurrection the way that Chloie and I believe in Leprechauns. We want to physically see the little green men before we believe in them just as Thomas wanted to see Jesus before he believed but maybe we should believe in Leprechauns. We should be able to have faith and believe in things that we cannot see in the physical sense, but I was never really able to fully understand that until the Happening mantra "In all places, at all times, I see God in you." Now, I see God in my friends when they give me a hug after a hard day. I see God at the Grocery store when someone helps me get something from the top shelf.

Chloie: "In all places, at all times, I see God in you." That simple phrase allowed me to purposely look for God in places where I had never noticed it before. It shows how there is God's love in everything, everyday, and it allows you to see God in people and have faith in him. Jesus may not appear directly in front of us, as he did for Thomas, but we can still see him in all places, at all times. And similarly, believers of leprechauns may not physically see pots of gold at the end of rainbows, but they find their belief in those other ways of seeing.

Brennan: So as you make your way through the day, take stock in all places, at all times in the beauty of God's creations. See God in the beauty of our nave, see God in Thomas as he works for his faith, and see God in all the people you talk to today.

In all places, at all times, I see God in you.