

Mid-week Meditation
October 21, 2020
Rev. Mark McLennan
New St. James Presbyterian Church

The following came to me from a seminary classmate, Tony Boonstra.
It was written by Walter Murray, whose family I knew in Nova Scotia, if it is the same person.
Walter is a United Church minister, and has served in various capacities.
I thought his words were appropriate for this time.

Second Sight (Overcoming fear)

There once was a minister gifted with second sight.
The congregation to which she was called loved things *"the way they had always been."*
On the first week with her new congregation, the convener of the Worship Committee said to her, *"We like to sing the old hymns."*
The new minister looked into her eyes and read from her heart, *"I am afraid of change, but I want to be loved."*
The second week into her ministry with the congregation, the convener of the Finance Committee said to her, *"We are always short of money, so be careful not to rock the boat."*
She looked into his eyes and read from his heart, *"I am afraid to give but I want to be loved."*
It was the beginning of the second month that the convener of the Pastoral Care Committee said to her, *"We like the minister to visit everyone."*
She looked into the eyes of this visitor and read from her heart, *"I am lonely and afraid to reach out, but I want to be loved."*

Each day someone came to see the minister.
Beyond their words she read from their hearts and sensed their fears and longings.

On Sundays she gathered with the congregation in worship and looked deep into her own heart where she saw written, *"God is love."*
This message was so strong she preached this same message, with slight variations, for three years.

No one commented, but before long people began to ask to sing new hymns.
And they started to give more generously.
They began to speak of their own fears and to hold one another until the pain disappeared.

Some of them even began to catch the gift of second sight and to read the hearts of those they met.

Walter Murray