



January 18, 2022



Parable of the Pastor

Pauline Boss is a psychotherapist who coined the term Ambiguous Loss. Originally, she used it to describe the loss of someone mentally but not physically – like loving someone suffering from Alzheimer's or experiencing addiction. Or it can be the loss of someone physically, but not mentally – like a deployment or immigration.

Over the years, Ambiguous Loss has become a helpful way to describe lots of other kinds of losses that are complex, that are drawn out or confusing, that elude closure.

Much of what we are experiencing during COVID has come to feel like an ambiguous loss. The church and community that I once knew and felt supported by, still exists. But also, it is gone. The components of my faith community that have regularly supported me, still exist, but they are also gone.

I have learned that one way to cope with ambiguous loss is to practice both-and thinking. That means holding two opposing ideas at the same time.

I'm so angry with her; I love her so much.

The church I loved is gone; it is also still here.

Already; not yet.

Sorrow. Joy.

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Sending love for your journey. Pastor Mitch

Adapted from Reformed Journal Ambiguous Loss By Kate Kooyman

**(WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY)**

**WE PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS AND
WORK OF THE ECUMENICAL AND
INTERFAITH RELATIONS
COMMITTEE.**

 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Every year, Christians from a different host country choose the theme and prepare draft texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU). In 2022 these have been prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches based in Beirut, Lebanon.

From this year's resource package:

"After encountering the Saviour and worshipping him together, the Magi return to their countries by a different way, having been warned in a dream. Similarly, the communion we share in our prayer together must inspire us to return to our lives, our churches and our world by new ways... Following Christ is our new path, and in a volatile and changing world Christians must remain as fixed and determined as the constellations and the shining planets.... Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to defending human dignity, especially in the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a future that accords to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love. The new way between the churches is the way of visible unity that we sacrificially seek with courage and audacity so that, day after day, "God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15:28)."

[Click here for a beautiful song from the Inshallah Choir at Luther University College](#)

InshAllah is an Arabic expression that you may hear from Muslim or Middle Eastern Christian friends meaning "if God wills" or "God willing". This community choir is committed to singing songs of faith from communities around the world. The song they have chosen for this week of prayer is sung in Arabic, Hebrew and English. The words in English are:

**Between darkness and light, I will always walk,
and wherever I will go,
I will open the window of light
and will plant the seeds of love.
I will open the window of light
and will plant the seeds of love.**



Words (Arabic and Hebrew): Manal Hreilb © Manal Hreilb.
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Parking Passes

The parking passes available in the Narthex are no longer valid at the Broughton st parkade on Sunday mornings

Notice from Session

Until we have a plan to achieve compliance with mask-wearing, the church office will be closed, and the Church Administrator will work from home.

Reservations for Sunday

We are still asking for congregants to register for attendance at the Sunday service. We know that many have stopped pre-registering. However, as more people attend (and we get closer to reaching our capacity of 70 attendees) we need your help to let us know if you'll be there in-person on Sunday. Please help us to prepare for worship by [clicking here](#) for the form to register for Sunday.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

