

# Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

March 11, 2026

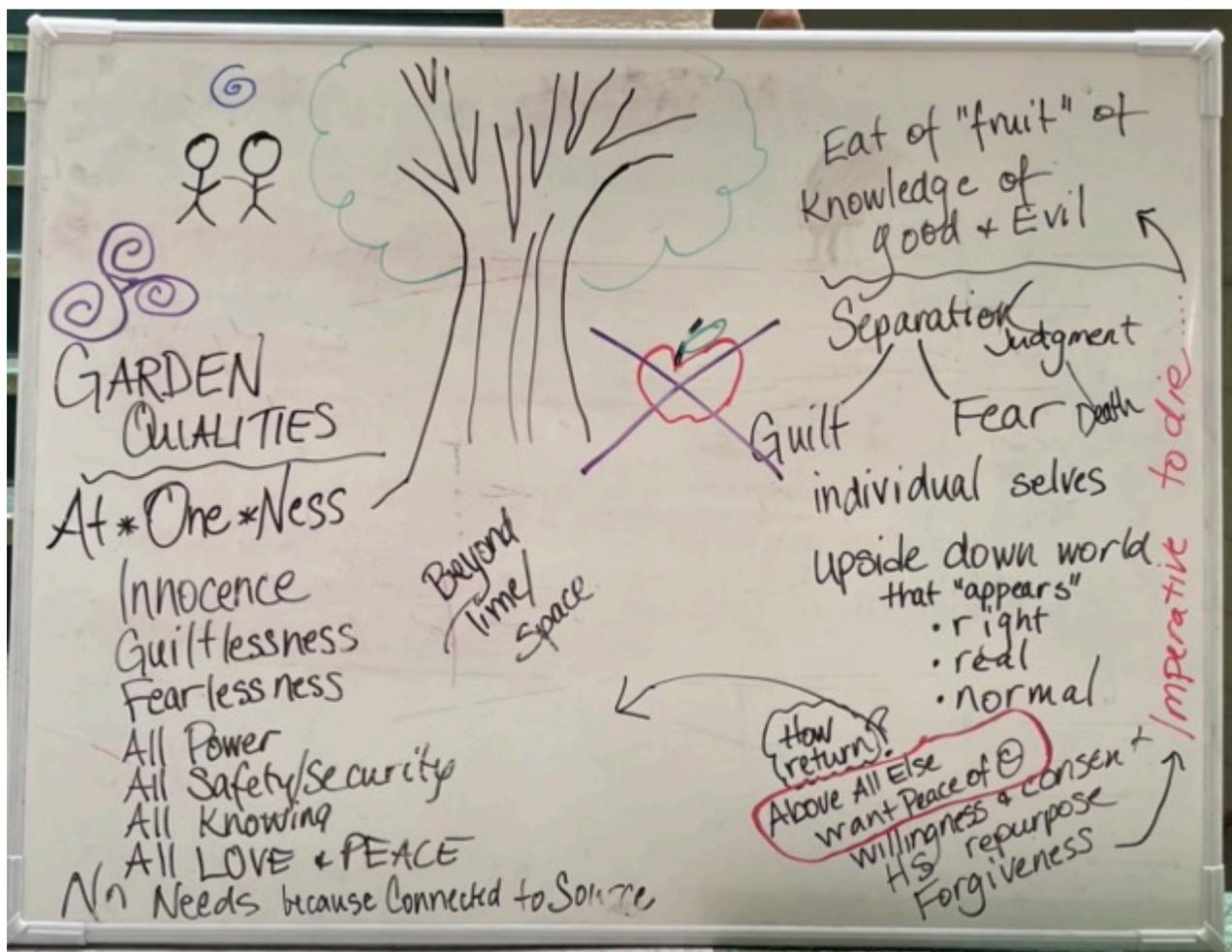
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**"The chief thing that separates us from God is the thought that we are separated from God."**

~Thomas Keating, *Open Mind, Open Heart*

## The Cost of Eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

16 The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; 17 but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" ~Genesis 2:16-17



This past Sunday, we circled back to Genesis 2, and the "Garden of Eden". Let's consider

what the Garden was like, and the felt experience of dwelling there. Creation is God's extension of GodSelf...Love extending Love. Since God is Absolute Love, it is not possible to have an opposite of God...so the Garden of Eden is God's extension of Love into Love. What does that look and feel like?? It means that God and God's extension are At\*One, and this at\*one\*ment is the state of incorruptible innocence, guiltlessness, fearlessness, which is all power, all knowing, all love and peace. This extension of God is a state which has no needs because it is absolutely connected to Source, beyond the realms of time and space. I invite you just to take a moment and \*\*breathe\*\* into the re-membling of our First Home. Those resonances are still within you!

When the idea to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was considered, so began *an impossible tiny mad idea*...that an opposite of God could ever be. And then **the cost** of eating of this tree of judgment and death was separation...and the heartache and terror of being separated from our Source. But because we believe we pulled off the impossible, guilt and fear and shame resulted. Another **cost** was that there appeared to have individuated, separate selves from another, all which had different and opposing wills. And another disorienting **cost** was that the "upside down world" began, and this world appeared "right", and "real", and "normal" and what we still orient to. This new world became our god. Can you see how this perspective still runs most of our imaginations??

So then, how do we return to this place of First Creation?? Here is where the Season of Lent has been preparing us for our HomeGoing. This dream of separate selves and being separate from God **must die**. Jesus knew that in order to live, our fearful individual self must die. He showed us the way, and **He continues to walk with us to this day**. And we begin this pilgrimage of resurrection and transformation when, above all else, **we want only the Peace of God**. We bring our **willingness** and **consent** for the journey to the Holy Spirit, and **She repurposes** these lives of ours...back into God's only Will of Love. And our part? Forgiveness becomes our function as we forgive ourselves and all the dreams that have served to block Love's Presence.

Genesis says: "God took *the one created from the dirt* and settled the one in the garden *to farm it and take care of it*," meaning our purpose is to nourish and sustain the Kindom Realm of God--this place of Eden--or named another way, Heaven. And to re-cognize that the cost of eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil led to the first trauma of us all...**the forgetting of the True and Essential Innocent Selves** we were created to be. And so we surrender our will and our lives into the care of God. This is our practice, daily...to walk this pilgrimage of death from death. And in this dying we become re-minded that since God is only Love, this Love is Who and What we have remained in Truth....always! ♥

Take a few moments right now to really \*\*breathe\*\* and allow this truth to resound within you. You Are at home with the God Who Is Love!!

Deep Peace and Joy to you, Beloved!! Pastor Luna 🌀

## Lenten Worship

- The church season of Lent continues for the next three Sundays, where we ask the Holy Spirit to show us what we need to let go of, to surrender to open our hearts to



Love. During these Sundays we will continue to offer our **Healing Corner** with prayers for healing (with or without direct touch).

- March 29-April 5 is Holy Week, when we follow Jesus from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the last supper in the upper room and the crucifixion on Good Friday to the joy of resurrection on Easter morning. Besides Sunday worship, we will celebrate **Maundy Thursday on April 2 with a 5:30pm** potluck dinner in the sanctuary followed by foot washing (optional) and then worship with Holden Evening Prayer. This is a meaningful community gathering that brings us to the foot of the cross with reverence and mystery and hope. Please join us whether or not you can bring food to share.

## March Mission: Twin Cities Food Justice

Since March 2016 Twin Cities Food Justice have been working with co-ops, grocery stores, and farmers markets to re-distribute unsold and extra foods to local hunger relief organizations. They focus on vegetables, fruits, and nutrient rich breads because hunger relief organizations often find it challenging to consistently provide fresh food options for their clients.

Following the escalation of ICE's presence in early December, many regular partners saw a sharp drop-off in attendance at food shelves and community meals. So, TC Food Justice began delivering to organizations, bringing groceries directly to schools and families afraid to leave their homes. Edgcumbe participated by scheduling two food and hygiene supply pickups in February.



For March, Edgcumbe is collecting money donations for the continued response to Metro Surge and recovery from it. We look forward to Executive Director Ann Hill planning to visit Edgcumbe for worship on March 15. Please consider a mission donation during March. You can indicate "TC Food Justice" or "March Mission" on the memo line with a check, or on the Give Now application from the EPC website. Thanks for your support!

## Pastor Luna Attending Workshop this Weekend...

Pastor Luna just received word that she has gotten off the waiting list allowing her to attend a workshop this weekend with the Singing Resistance folk lead by Sarina Partridge. The workshop is "LEADING AND LISTENING: A WEEKEND WORKSHOP FOR EMERGING AND PRACTICING COMMUNITY SONG CARRIERS", and she is excited to learn more skills and grow in community

with the Singing Resistance folx!!

### Holding in Prayer...

We hold **Dave** and **Connie Howe-Vielmetti** in prayer as **Dave** has surgery today for his broken ankle at Regions Hospital.