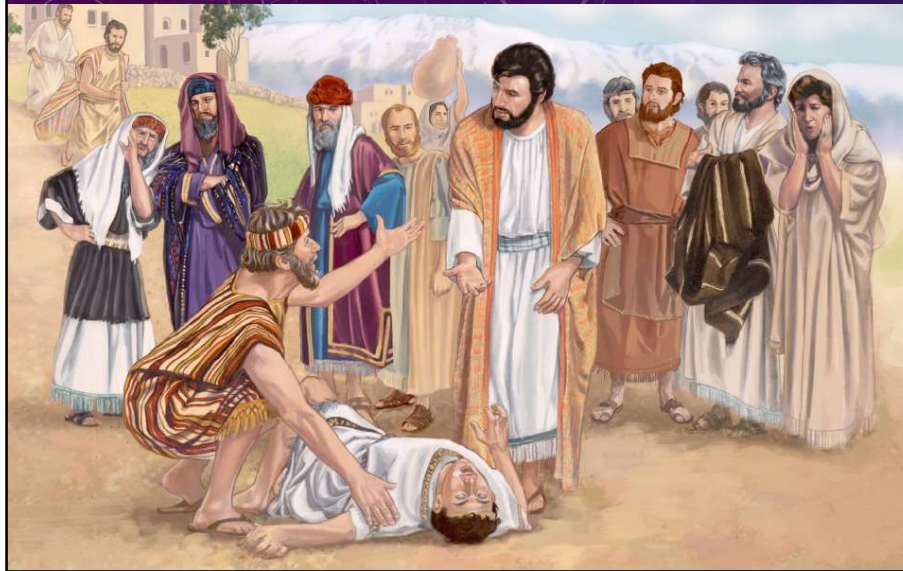


The world is filled with uncertainty - from the simple, “Will there be school tomorrow?” to the more serious, “Will there be war or peace for my grandchildren? Will health care be affordable when I need it? Will I be able to succeed in my chosen profession? Why can’t I overcome this problem that I’m facing?”

This Lenten sermon series will show you that it is only by embracing the uncertain – facing it, instead of fearing it – that we fully experience the power of faith in Christ and his resurrection. Christine and I hope to show you that we can follow Christ with courage, hope, and an obedience that leads to joy. For we discover that after the world quakes - it is because of the empty tomb that the ground has settled, our footing is secure, and the only source of a firm foundation to build our lives upon is Jesus.

"UNCERTAINTY OF FAITH"



I'm going to get right to the heart of today's issue. Uncertainty is doubt, it is what you are unsure about. The father in today's scripture doubted – he was only partially sure. He **if** Jesus would, there was a **possibility** his son **might** be healed. He had faith, but still doubt in his heart and mind. Experience had taught him over and over again, that his child was sick and no one could heal him. So much of his and probably his wife's energy had been spent keeping their son out of the fire and in trying so many other ways to find help, so how could their son be given back to them and that sorrow turned to joy quickly and easily by Jesus?

BY TRAPPIST MONK THOMAS MERTON

FROM THOUGHTS IN SOLITUDE (1958)

**My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain
where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact
that I think I am following your will
does not mean
that I am actually doing so.**

BY TRAPPIST MONK THOMAS MERTON

**But I believe that the desire
to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.**



BY TRAPPIST MONK THOMAS MERTON

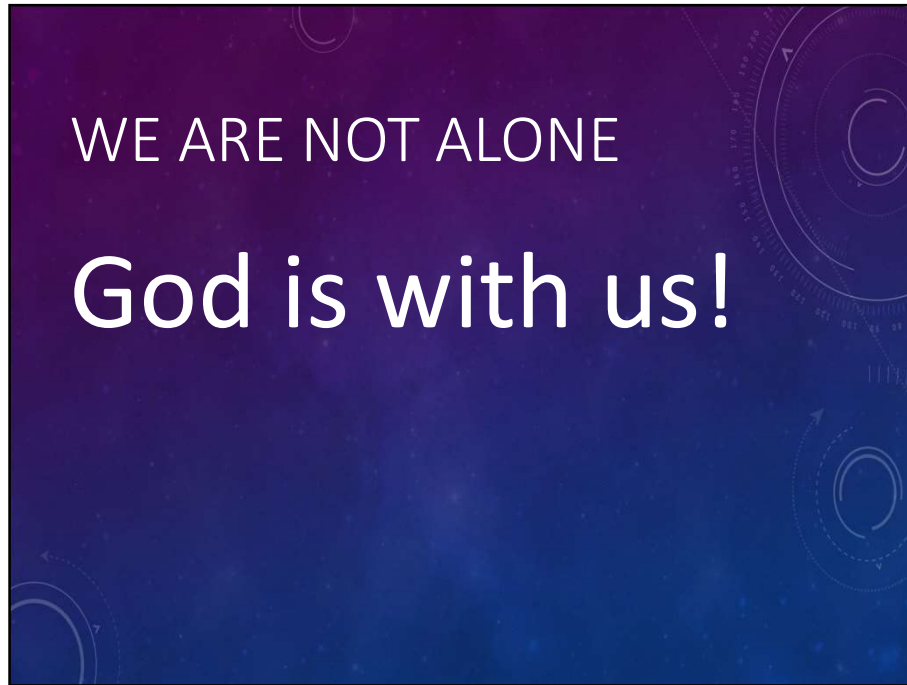
**Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.**

As holy as he was, Merton lived with an odd and seemingly untenable tension of belief and unbelief within him. We sometimes live there too, like the man whose son was demon-possessed. When we trust God and see Christ and the Holy Spirit at work, it can be a time of great strengthening of our faith.

UNCERTAINTY

OF FAITH
OF FORGIVENESS
OF WORRY
OF MORTALITY
OF SURRENDER
OF OBEDIENCE

Over the season of Lent we will be looking at six areas of uncertainty in life. While we cannot predict the timing or severity of the chaos that is sure to greet us down the road, we can trust with absolute conviction that God has forgiven us through Jesus Christ.



We have been given great resources to embrace the uncertainty of our lives – the scriptures describe our situations and solutions so that we can trust God more. When we commit ourselves to Christ, the moments of doubt may not be dispelled, but they will be faced with the strength God gives in addition to our own.