

June 2020

From the Pastor



Giving Up

We have all seen the news stories of people who have to give things up because of this pandemic. It has been hard for many people.

Consider the graduates who have not been able to celebrate graduation in the usual way. They are not able to sit with hundreds or even thousands of classmates who are celebrating the completion of years of hard work. They are not able to throw caps in the air and throw beach balls around while speakers say things that usually are forgotten after the graduates leave the building. They are not able to come together with friends and family under tents and in living rooms with all sorts of food and a big cake with the words, "Congratulations!" These have been given up.

There are also many birthdays that have been celebrated quietly at home instead of at that favorite restaurant. Packages are opened with only a couple of people watching (unless Zoom is being used).

Grandparents had to give up hugging their grandchildren. Neighbors had to give up Memorial Day picnics.

There are many other losses we had to experience at this time. These were losses that were harder than losing a graduation party. A loss so severe that only those who have lost friends and



family to the coronavirus understand.

This was the loss of a Son. It is recorded in a number of places in the Bible, but consider what is said in the book of Romans.

Romans 5:8 ... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

God gave up His only Son. He did not have to do it, but because of His great love for you, He suffered the death of His Son.

You have had to give up much. This is will hopefully help you to understand what God gave up for you. God loves you. Remember this when you have to give up something else this month.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.