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Today's message has been prepared by David Kai. David and spouse, Marly Bown are our Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAMs).

*"My help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1*

On my office shelf used to sit a book called a "Pastoral Record". It was a gift to me at the time of my commissioning. The book contains pages to be filled out to record baptisms performed, weddings officiated at, confirmations and memberships received, funerals presided at, sermons delivered, and much, much more.

Unfortunately, the book contains not a single entry.

I think that fact says some things about the nature of ministry. For one, it points out that the time to make entries in such a book is definitely a luxury. Professional ministry is about time pressure; bulletins and reports due, meetings and visits to schedule, emergency calls, meals hurried or delayed.

But what it also says to me is that ministry is more than just a set of tasks to be completed, no matter how important those tasks may be. Ministry is about being, not just doing. It's about struggling to be and become faithful; faithful to one's church, one's own beliefs, to one's family. It's about struggling for consistency between faith and action, for congruence between belief and lifestyle, preaching and practice.

And most important, it says that ministry is not, in the end, about numbers and numbers of tasks done. Ministry is about people and relationships and "quality" time, which can be all too short, and even harder to come by in these isolated times.

In the similar way, we shouldn't overly concern ourselves about how many tasks we are getting done and how productive we have been in these Covid-19 times. It may seem that we have all the time in the world to do things that really needed to be done; and with all this time on our hands, all that cleaning and sorting and fixing should be done in no time, should it not? But if that is not the case, let us still be content with each day. There is always an ebb and flow between work and Sabbath, activity and rest. Let us be happy each day to be human "beings", not human "doings".

May God's blessings be with you in this coming week.

David

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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*