

From the Pastor

I remember those long Sunday night rides back to Kansas City. My family would travel to southern Missouri on a Friday to visit my grandparents over the weekend. The ride back to Kansas City would seem to take forever.

I would sit in the back seat of the family car and stare out at the night sky and I would think. There being nothing else to do, I would take what I learned about space in science class and I would think of a line extending past the moon out there and on through the solar system and out into the Milky Way galaxy and then beyond. And then I would think of the other end of that line—again taking what I learned in science class—extending down into the cells of my hand and beyond those cells into the molecules that made up one of those cells and then, even further, to the atoms that made up the molecules and then to the particles that make up those atoms. It was a pretty amazing line, extending from the very large and vast to the very small and tiny. I passed the time by thinking about these things.

“Thou my best thought by day or by night,” is how a line from my favorite hymn goes. God is my best thought, the best thought I can think by day or by night.

And I have found that this thinking about God is a lot like my thinking about that line. My line extended into the vastness of space. I knew the vastness of space to be bigger than I could imagine. And God is great, greater than anything, even the vast distances of space. God is great and certainly powerful, powerful enough to have created those vast distances. God is great and powerful. And God is also good. This goodness and the love of God are like the other end of my line, the end that extended into that tiny “universe” of atoms and the particles that make up atoms, a universe so small I could hardly imagine it. At the same time that God is great and powerful, God pays attention to small things, very small things like you and me. This attention, this love, is very great and very powerful.

God is our best thought. Our thoughts will never “capture” God. We will never finish thinking about God. But still is God our best thought. Thinking about God will change us, will change how we think about ourselves and the world in which we live. This change is for the better; our thinking about ourselves and the world will be truer.

This thinking about God, I recommend it. Take some time every once in a while and give it a try.

Pastor Neal