

March 21, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Early this morning, my wife and I took our son Timothy to the doctor. He hurt his hand a few weeks ago, and it still hurt pretty badly, so it was time to have some x-rays taken.

Turns out, the poor kid broke his hand.

This meant he needed a splint, which he will have to wear for 4-6 weeks, before beginning rehabilitation.

To make matter worse, though, it also means no golf, and for Timothy, this is a big deal. The spring season is about to begin. It's his senior year. He is the captain of the team. And now, he won't be able to play. To say he is disappointed would be an understatement.

Yet, it is exactly this kind of emotion that marks the season of Lent.

At some point, we all begin to realize that faith, like life, is not all sunny days. There is more to being a Christian than resurrection and ascension. There is also the sadness, death and the cross. Hope and joy and intertwined with doubt and heartache.

Right now, during this season of Lent, we are invited to confront our doubt and heartache, but we do so knowing they are not the last line in the story. Our sadness and disappointment will not last forever. Easter is coming, in all of its splendor, and when it does, our lives will be engulfed by mercy and love. That is God's promise to all of us. Death will give way to new life, and in the end, that will be the last line in the story.

See you in church,
Andrew