

4th Sunday in Lent - March 27

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)*

Grief: I don't know many people who haven't been introduced. Of course much has been written, much has been experienced, but it is never the same for any of us. Each page of the grief book brings both predictability and unpredictability.

One of my very best friends (and I surely tell you one of God's most amazing creations) died. It'll be exactly one year to the day when we will be proofing and compiling this Lenten Devotional 2022 series so she's deeply on my mind. We've produced these Lenten booklets for a decade plus and every year when we are unclear if we'll have enough writers, I'd always do a last request to her, "C'mon", I'd email or text, "this booklet will be better with you in it, because you ooze inspiration." Since she was oozing her gifts to so many, sometimes she'd have time, sometimes she wouldn't.

Today I opened the PUMC 2014 Lenten devotionals and in a God wink moment, I flipped the page right to her name...she wrote not one devotion, but two, go figure.

I heard someone on Lectio 365* say that "seeds of eternity are planted inside our souls." I wrote it down because I needed to sit in those words. As I grieve older losses in my life or newer ones, I find clarity in the promise that although grief may be deep and wide, it doesn't match the promise of eternity, hope and light broader than our eyes can see or our minds comprehend. May our hearts be lifted into that promise of perfect peace in all things and in grief.

Dana

****Prayer:** Father, help me to remember that You are in control. Help me to remember to trust (and not fight or redirect) the path You have designed for me. Help me to relish the cleansing of my sins and be in perfect peace. Amen.

* Lectio 365 is a free online application

** Prayer of Belinda Molihan Jones (*PUMC Lent: A Season of Hope, April 8, 2014*)