

Sermon notes for April 22, "Beloved and Courageous"
Scriptures: Matthew 12:14-21; 3:16-17; I John 4:17-18

Jesus was able to endure all he went through because he knew he was loved:

- he knew his mother Mary, loved him
- he knew his earthly father, Joseph loved him
- and he knew his Heavenly Father loved him.

Two events, where God spoke love for Jesus publicly were at his baptism, and at the transfiguration.

There is much in our world to make us afraid. Yet, the Bible calls us over and over to "Fear not!" Anxiety is like the herbicide Round-up. It can drift in the wind and halt growth, or kill perfectly productive plants. Anxiety and fear can stop fruit of the Spirit from being produced.

Like Jesus, we must know we are deeply loved so that we can both endure hardships, and joyfully produce fruit in the Kingdom of God. We can do it! We have the power of the cross, the power of the resurrection, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is much in our world to make us afraid. There is much more in our faith to make us unafraid.