



## Grain

“‘Do not be afraid’ is not the same as ‘There’s nothing to be afraid of.’”  
–Anna Madsen (submitted by Rev. Josh Fite)

## Field

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.’ Matthew 10:24-31.

## Thoughts, written by Rev. Josh Fite, Green Bay, WI

Would that it were that easy. The thing is, though, we live in a world that is all too full of stuff to be afraid of. I’m writing this reflection early in June. These past few days the lives and well-being of my LGBT+ family and friends have been even more on my mind than usual. June is a lovely time to celebrate their very lives, and the love they have for their partners and spouses. It’s been especially nice these past few years seeing Pride grow in our culture, and to find a place on the sideline of the whole thing where I can be a faithful ally, letting my loved ones know how dear they are to me.

As Pride begins this year, my joy is tempered a bit. While I’ve seen more affirming posts on Facebook than in years past, more rainbow items to buy in stores, more stories of Christ’s children expressing who they are to celebrate, there are also more bills in state halls threatening the progress that we the people have made in the last two generations. In 2023, alone, lawmakers in have introduced over 650 bills in 46 states that target our LGBT+ loved ones, their bodies, and their access to public education, employment, health care, and even travel.

It’s hard not to be afraid for our LGBT+ kindred as our elected representatives are trying to legislate them out of public life. As these words hit your screen, Pride Month will be winding down. But the attacks from legislators will not be. As we move forward, may Christ’s words, “Do not be afraid” continue to take hold in our hearts, creating faith in his promise to protect and provide for us. May Christ’s call to boldness over fear lead us to living out our baptismal callings more fully—to love our neighbor, to bring darkness out into the light, and to bear witness to Jesus’ grave-conquering love that is fiercer and more relentless than any force of this world that thrives on fear. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Josh