

Over-‘Eucharized’! That was an expression an elderly man coined after accompanying me on three successive days to make calls on shut ins. On each of these visits, I brought Holy Communion (the Eucharist).

I suppose I can understand how he felt, though I am not sure that we ever reach the point we don’t need to be reminded of the benefits Christ won for us on the cross. “With His stripes we are healed,” wrote Isaiah 700 years before Christ looking forward to His work of redemption.

What I am sure of is that today we are over-‘news-irised’, to coin an expression of my own. On a number of occasions, I have been in waiting rooms in which a television has been tuned to a continuous news channel. I found the hype tinged with bias almost unbearable. On at least one occasion when I was the only one in the waiting room and none of the ‘powers that be’ was watching I turned the television off. I could then read my book or magazine in quietness and peace.

Where, O where, is Walter Cronkite who could tell you everything you needed to know in 30 minutes and then sign off with the words “And that’s the way it is”? For sure he had his own opinions, biases (we all do) and without a doubt on occasion they bled through, but very discreetly and rarely. More importantly, he gave you the big picture of the world and did so succinctly.

“Fifty years ago, more than two-thirds of Americans trusted the news media. That number is at an all time low of less than one third,” according to research conducted in advance of a conference entitled “News. Trust. Democracy” held this past April at the LBJ Presidential Library. Surely this is a worrying trend.

What Dickens said about the time of the French Revolution – “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness.” – might be said of our day. With the internet, we have enormous resources. The libraries of the world and a camera into what is happening at this very moment are at our disposal. We’ve never had so much news. Yet, great

discernment is called for. The sheer quantity can be overwhelming and disheartening.

People of faith, however, don't have to be sucked into the vortex of despair. They have another window open to them, the window of God's self-revelation and on-going plan to put the world torn apart by strife, false values and misinformation back together.

On the surface, it appears chaos reigns, but unseen to the human eye a quiet operation is going on. Our God reigns and will reign. In the words of the psalmist, "Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof . . . God is in the midst of her."

The great story of God, humans and the world ends with "new heavens and a new earth," a place of no more tears and one where death itself is no more. It is this knowledge that gives us confidence to do the best of things in the worst of times.

Neither resonation nor disengagement can be a part of a Christian's way of life. We can't bring

Walter Cronkite back, but we can wait for the arrival of the One who in the end will say with even greater authority: “And that’s the way it is.”

As we wait, let us work for a better world knowing that somehow all that we do in the present that is good, honest and praiseworthy will count. In the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:48, our “labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

We have good news. Our God reigns. Let’s believe it, live it and share it.

*O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect for the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Book of Common Prayer)*

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