The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.  
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let's see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) As HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By:  The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD’S LOVE NEVER CHANGES
Easter Sunday –March 31, 2013 –Hebrews 13: 8
The Church of the Covenant

The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, was a little drained by having to be so spontaneous in class, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you–the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8).

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
“cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let's see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) As HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you — the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
“cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, was just sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!!  The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you --the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God's love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
"cross and we will believe him", they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.  
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”?? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feeble and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.  
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...” ; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD’S LOVE NEVER CHANGES
Easter Sunday –March 31, 2013 –Hebrews 13: 8
The Church of the Covenant

The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
“cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...”nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you --the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
++Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
++Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
++Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42)  At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6)  AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA
If this has blessed you, please pass it along to a friend!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
“cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD’S LOVE NEVER CHANGES  
Easter Sunday –March 31, 2013 –Hebrews 13: 8  
The Church of the Covenant

The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!  
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.  
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, fickle and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD’S LOVE NEVER CHANGES
Easter Sunday –March 31, 2013 –Hebrews 13: 8
The Church of the Covenant

The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

++At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! ++Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever! ++Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever. ++Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
“Cross and we will believe him,” they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship... only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you —the world is always changing, is never constant and true... but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that... God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”... (don’t ask me to go to the cross)... “nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
“cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthy remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By:  The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you --the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God's love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.


By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD’S LOVE NEVER CHANGES
Easter Sunday – March 31, 2013 – Hebrews 13: 8
The Church of the Covenant

The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you – the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
GOD’S LOVE NEVER CHANGES
Easter Sunday –March 31, 2013 –Hebrews 13: 8
The Church of the Covenant

The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you –the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!

+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.

+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA
IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you — the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever.
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. As HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
The man I served who was the most mercurial and changeable, who you had to live moment by moment and try to anticipate his every move, was the pastor in the field education church when I was still in seminary. Now I tend to be consistent, plodding, keeping to a direct course, never changing. So this was quite an experience for me. The first Easter Sunday I was in that church was the first Sunday I participated in worship...only I didn’t know it. I went to lead the Senior High Sunday School class and I had been told that the local fire chief was speaking, only he had cancelled at the last minute, and no one had bothered to tell me. So I had to come up with a spontaneous Sunday School lesson! I went over to sit with the youth group up in the balcony for the service, as was their custom, and was just sort of sitting there as the choir began singing the processional hymn. One of the kids said, “Say, Stu, aren’t you in the worship service today?” So I grabbed the bulletin to see that my name was next to the Call to Worship, only no one had bothered to tell me. So I ran downstairs, grabbed one of the ancient black pulpit robes hanging in the closet, evidently of someone who was at least 6 foot four because I kept tripping on the robe, and was flipping through the old hymnal, remembering somewhere in my dark memory that there were Calls to Worship printed in the front. The entire choir has almost departed from the Narthex area by the time I arrive. I am flipping through the hymnal desperately trying to find a Call to Worship, and am tripping all the way up the center aisle of the church on my too-long choir robe. I arrive in THEE Nick of time at the lectern in time to deliver the Call to Worship I have just found. By the way, I am describing the reality of the modern world where EVERYTHING changes, all the time, and without notice, and where nothing seems constant or secure or steadfast and universally true. On this Easter Sunday I will tell you—the world is always changing, is never constant and true...but that we know by an empty tomb on that first Easter that...God’s love never changes!!!!!! The world may change; your circumstances may change but on Easter we know that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!” (Hebrews 13:8)

+At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He is tempted by the devil out in the wilderness. He is tempted to try to accomplish His Father in heaven’s will by other means other than the cross. But Jesus does not. He remains committed to God’s plan of salvation for the world. God’s love never changes. He never wavered. He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! 
+Jesus’ ministry on earth is about three years in length. He prays and knows that His time is drawing near and so, as the scriptures say, He “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9: 51) This is a phrase indicative of his total commitment to do His Father’s will no matter what; He will not be distracted; He will not go either to the left nor the right; He has set His face to go to His death and fulfill His destiny. He will not be dissuaded from His task. His best friend, Peter, tells Him He does not need to go to the cross, but Jesus rejects this and knows this as the temptation it is. He remains immovable where God’s plan is concerned. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!
+Jesus makes His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and He is intensely praying with blood, sweat and tears. He is the Son of God and He knows His Father loves Him. What if He were to turn and walk away in this moment? What if He asked His Father in heaven to spare Him from the cross in this moment? Jesus even prays there in Olive Press (and that’s what Gethsemane means), “My Father, if it be possible, let thy cup pass from me”...(don’t ask me to go to the cross)...“nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26: 39) It is not possible to do it another way. Jesus wills His will to be His Father’s will. God’s love never changes. Jesus Christ is utterly consistent, the same yesterday, today and forever. 
+Jesus then goes to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. As He is hanging there many in the crowd assume that God will come and take Him down from the cross. “Let him come down from the
cross and we will believe him”, they say. (Matthew 27: 42) At one point they believe Jesus is crying out to Elijah and the crowd says, “Wait, let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” (Matthew 27: 49) And to be sure God could have sent Elijah to come and take His beloved Son down from the cross. Or Jesus could have cried out and asked for an entire avenging angel army, the heavenly host, to come and to vindicate Him, and to take Him down from the cross, and to destroy His enemies. But Jesus does not. He breathes His last...and it feels as if it is over...indeed, as if it is finished. How can He keep His promises now, that He is dead? How can He be utterly consistent with all He has said and done? God’s love never changes, but on Good Friday it felt like it had. It felt like God couldn’t or wouldn’t follow through. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus isn’t the same yesterday, and today and forever...

But then, of course, three days later the disciples are trudging through the Garden expecting to pay a visit to the tomb where Jesus’ earthly remains are entombed. They find the stone has been rolled away. They find the tomb is empty. An angel says to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” An angel says: “He is not here; he is risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28: 6) AS HE SAID. AS HE SAID. AS HE PROMISED and AS HE SAID. Death could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His promises to us. The Tomb could not make Him inconsistent to the purposes of the Father’s divine, unchanging love. The grave could not hold Him nor keep Him from keeping His promises to us. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, from beginning to end, Jesus is utterly consistent; His WORD is sure; God’s love never changes; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And we know this because of Easter.

So perhaps today you are tempted to believe that God’s love for you may have changed. You know, you are facing some situation in life that has really got you down and it doesn’t feel like God loves you anymore. “I will never leave Thee nor forsake Thee” promises Jesus. Or perhaps it is a debilitating health issue that has so discouraged you that you are not certain that God loves you anymore. “My power is made perfect in weakness.”, promises Jesus, “My grace is sufficient for the day”. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, and yes, you believe in the resurrection of the dead, but the feelings of loss and grief are making it feel like God doesn’t love you anymore. “I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you”, promises Jesus. Have you heard the expression, “God is Good, all the time.”? I have a dear friend and they say that sometimes life gets us to the place where all we can say is, “God is good” and we leave off the “all the time” because right now it doesn’t feel like God is Good right now. And then they say, and sometimes in life it gets us so down that all we can say is “God is...”; we cannot even get to the place of saying God is GOOD. So what I say next is for that person who is just at the place of only being able to say, “God is...”

We know God is Good all the time because we know God’s love never changes and we know God’s love never changes because we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever. In an utterly inconsistent, changeable, feckless and unreliable world...He, Jesus Christ, remains absolutely the same. We know this to be true, because Jesus endured the cross for us unwavering, and Jesus even came back from the dead, just to prove to us, once and for all time, that God’s love never changes. Praise God and Hallelujah, the Savior who was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago is present, alive and with us today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! And, praise God, He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Amen.

By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!