Dear Saints of the Longest Day,

Yes, June 6th 1945 is D-Day and is sometimes referred to as the Longest Day. In fact, a movie of the Normandy invasion with that title was made which included practically every star in Hollywood. But, that is not the longest day to which I am referring. As you know, summer will soon be upon us. This year, summer begins at 12:39 P.M. eastern daylight time on June 21st. In astronomical terms this is referred to as the Summer Solstice. The word solstice comes from the Latin which means “the sun stands still”. This came about because the sun seems to stand still at noon for several days before and after the solstice. At noon on June 21st, and in some years June 20th, the sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer. About December 22nd, the sun is directly overhead at noon at the Tropic of Capricorn which marks the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere and the beginning of summer in the southern hemisphere.

As the Summer Solstice approaches, make note of the phenomenon of the sun standing still during June 18th through June 24th. As you notice the seeming lack of movement of the nearest star, I hope it serves as a reminder that as our spiritual natures seems to be set and unchanging, in fact, like the changing of the seasons, they continue to move through a life cycle that is part of God’s creation.

Our human nature interferes with our complete surrender to the workings of the Holy Spirit in ways that suffocate our good will and desire to be more like Christ. We have a tendency to become stuck in a rut and see the world through lenses of our own making. Because we do this, we become stagnant in our faith development and fail to heed the leading of the Holy Spirit. Instead we become involved in circular thinking and use our own spiritual formations to justify all that we do.

Being open to God’s call on our lives and the presence of the living Christ can lead to an earth shaking experience. Indeed things will not seem to stand still. Change upon change will intervene in daily living to the extent that love will well up inside and impel the restructuring of one’s very way of life.

Indeed, the longest day will become nothing more than a platform for preparing others to experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Yes, the seasons come and go; day turns into night; and our souls are transformed by the nearness of our Lord. May you have a blessed summer and may your spirit continue to change as you become more like Christ.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Dennis