

FaithBIT



Start by Saying Hello

Reflection by Paul Carroll

With all that has happened these past few weeks, I did what I often do when I needed to think, I went for a bike ride. I pedaled through Eden Prairie, waving to my neighbors. It wasn't until I made it to Hopkins did I notice there were fewer families out and about. In Loring Park, I was caught off guard by the sight of 20 or so bicycle police officers lounging under a tree. Downtown Minneapolis appeared to be a boarded-up ghost town. Once in the Mid-Way district, I got to see firsthand both the devastation and community generosity we have all seen on TV.

I made several stops on my loop around town to check in with and to offer encouragement to store owners and employees I know personally. We were all confused about what to do next. I was particularly conflicted by how I should respond to seeing a brand-new bicycle outside of a recently added tent encampment with a hand written "For Sale" sign only blocks away from the bicycle shop that was looted earlier that week.

Recent events have me wondering whether I need to get to know Minneapolis again, as if it were a new city. Maybe you do as well. If so, I encourage you to get on your bike and pedal out of the familiar comforts of Eden Prairie. If you are struggling to determine a destination, consider biking up to Immanuel's partner church, [Redeemer Lutheran](#). Stop in at their bike shop, [Venture North](#), and buy a tube or some other needed item and take the time to introduce yourself. I don't know where the conversation will lead, but wherever we are going to go as a society, it's going to start by saying hello.