



The Meaning of a Scar by Pastor Jeong

As I look back on December 25th—Christmas Day—I’m reminded of a moment that changed our lives. My wife tore her ACL and underwent surgery soon after. She’s been recovering for nearly three months. It was a long pause—unexpected and painful. But through it all, the love of our church family sustained us. Your heartfelt concerns, calls, meals, prayers, and support have carried us through, and I’m so grateful. Now, she is walking again and preparing to return to her regular routine and work on May 11th. We give thanks.

It’s striking how one misstep—literally—can lead to such a long journey of healing. And though she’s healing well, the outcome includes more than physical recovery. Two metal pins now rest in her knee, a reminder of both the fragility and resilience of life. During our recent retreat, A Day Apart with Carol Damonte, we were invited to write short poems. Inspired by this experience and the image of my wife’s surgical scar, I was drawn into reflection. Life is beautiful—yes—but it’s not made up solely of blessings. It’s also full of detours and disruptions, moments that leave scars. Scars—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—can leave us feeling stuck. We find ourselves paused, held back by grief, disappointment, separation, or a loss of direction. Sometimes we don’t want to move forward—or don’t know how. Last Sunday, one of our members, Craig Norris, beautifully played “Life on Mars” by David Bowie. That haunting melody raised a deep question: What if life is meaningless? What if we’re bored, lost, or uncertain of purpose? These are hard questions. And I don’t pretend to have the final answer.

But I do return to the image of a scar. What if scars are sacred? What if they don't just mark our pain, but also testify to our healing? What if our brokenness is the very place where grace takes root?

There is a line I come back to often:

"The past is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift—that's why we call it the present."

And the secret to living fully in this present moment is to embrace our scars.

To accept that we are accepted—by the love of God, by the grace of God.

We are not defined by the wound, but by the healing.

Not by the fall, but by the One who walks with us through it all.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jeong