Christmas Present

Greetings to you in the name of Christ!

When I adopted my dog, Moses, I knew that he had tested as heartworm positive and would eventually need to receive treatment for it. This week he received a shot to treat the heartworms. As many of you know, with heartworm treatment comes the dreaded crate-rest. For the next few weeks, Moses will need to keep his heart rate down and will not be allowed to play. Moses does lazy very well, but when he does want to play, it is hard to get him to relax a little. I have feeling that these few weeks of rest will be challenging for both Moses and myself. But the treatment in necessary for him to live a long, happy, and full life.

More often than not, our own visits to the doctor come away the same: the treatment will help in the long run, but it won’t be pleasant to go through. Our spiritual lives are the same as well. There are times when God will bring something to our attention that needs treatment. It may be a particular attitude toward others, or a belief that needs to be challenged, or a relationship that needs to be maintained or repaired. But often, like Moses, we will end up in a time of painful healing. I know for myself, that the process of changing and healing can often deter me from wanting to do anything about it. However, we need the help of the Great Physician to show us where we need healing, to lead us through that painful but necessary process, and to strengthen us as we recover into a new understanding of ourselves and others.

May we all seek out the advice, care, and healing offered to us by God as we continue on in this journey of Advent.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Mary Kathryn Allen