

Rector's Column

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints.

Ephesians 1:17-18

Dear Friends,

I pray that you are finding encouragement and grace from the guest consultants and preachers who are visiting Trinity throughout this Sabbatical time. It is also my intention and hope that David Spring, Dianne McCormack, and Rev. Allen Hicks are also taking some intentional time to rest. I am among the last of the rectors within our diocese to have taken some Sabbatical time following the pandemic, and David Spring worked very hard during the same period to continue Trinity's music program in new and creative ways.

New and creative ways of moving forward as communities of faith, as dioceses, and as the diverse international body that is The Episcopal Church organization is a common theme across the church. My sincere hope is that as many of you as are able will participate in the special offerings being provided by a variety of consultants and preachers, adult forums and presenters, who are visiting Trinity each month. This is a time for thoughtful reflection, gentle engagement with one another, and for encouraging a faithful vision for Trinity.

The autumn is my favorite time of year, lending itself as a particularly appropriate season for reflecting on the past, pondering the possibilities of the future, and preparing for both the deep slumber of winter and the holiday celebrations it holds. For the past three decades of my ministry, I have thundered into the final quarter of every year with busy programmatic, reports and budget preparation, and the increase of pastoral care needs/funerals that seem to accompany the time. I am grateful for to have the time this year to pull back on the throttle of the swiftly moving train that is my ministry and life, allowing me for the first time in a long while to experience the fall season as I did when I was younger – as a time for reading, for memorizing poetry, for writing, and for dreaming. Nothing can become real in the world without first having been dreamed.



I know that this month of November is beginning as a stressful time for our nation with the election cycle. I was reminded again recently that the only thing that can overcome the darkness of evil is the light of courageous hope. Meeting darkness with more darkness only makes all people blind. We are all of us affected by the crimes of global leaders whose self-interest and lack of empathy would drag the entire earth to its doom without hesitation. The domination thinking of empire was as useless and pitiful in the time of Christ as it is today. The power of Jesus' theological, cultural, and political challenge to the powers and authorities of his day continue to to the powers and authorities of his day continue to resonate in our time. In a truly democratic society, our power as citizens resides in our vote. Any action that would hinder, gerrymander, dispossess citizens from their right to vote, or manipulate results must be challenged in courts of law. There is a reason that our Sunday prayers of the people include prayers for our local and national governance – as a nation and as a church, we fought and died for independence from despotic and cruel leadership. From my recent travels, I can tell you that all the world is watching our presidential election, and they are worried.

This November, we have the power to change the world by how we vote. We can contribute to a terrible gathering darkness or we can dispel it by being the beacon of light that the world needs us to be as a people and as a nation. We must have the courage of hope to leave the ravaging traditions of empire behind us as a global society, and we must grow up. We must grow beyond prejudice, beyond greed, beyond ignorance. We must rather live by the eternal truth of our faith that requires our utmost compassion and love for others, our responsible stewardship of Creation, and our commitment to participating in the ongoing power of resurrection. Our story doesn't end on the cross, not ever. Like Christ, we must we *rise* to the occasion.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Rachel+