

## Discerning Our Way Forward

The bishops of The Episcopal Church have reminded us that “the hope of the Church is in the hope of Jesus, the One who is making all things new.”

Every Christian is called to respond to this hope and to join Jesus in this work. We are to be Christ’s agents of renewal and hope, helping to make whole what is broken in our world.

But how do we frame this call? How do we discern the way forward when there is so much before us? What can one person, one congregation, or one diocese do? Where do we even begin?

Canon Chas Marks has called for a time of prayer and fasting, turning our hearts and our minds toward intentional listening for the call of God as we seek to serve Christ in this holy and time-honored season.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, said: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect”* (Romans 12:2).

A familiar guide to this renewal and our journey toward transformation is found at the beginning of our call as Christians, in the promises of our baptismal covenant. The last two promises speak directly to our calling in divisive times: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

The answer always is, and must be: *“I will, with God's help”* (BCP pp. 304-305).

Take time with these questions. Meditate on how you are seeking, serving, and loving. How is striving accomplished? What do justice and peace, respect and dignity look like? What do they sound like? How do we get there from here? God is calling us, all of us to join Jesus in the work of making all things new.

May the Holy Spirit guide us and the love of God in Christ strengthen us for the journey.

- *The Rev. Canon Anne Meredith Kyle*