Light Perpetual

My prayers the last couple of days have centered on the life and legacy of Pope Francis. While it is true that I am an Episcopalian (and that many in the Council are some form of Protestant), I find it remarkable the impact he had on so many people of faith.

Even more impressive are the significant number of non-religious folks in my life who are also grieving his passing.

His focus on the marginalized was not simply a function of a theology of suffering. Pope Francis was unrelenting in his calling out of the systems that denigrate and destroy. He understood, like many people of faith, that poverty is not simply a bug in the system but is a central feature.

While his efforts at creating a more inclusive Roman Catholic church had their limits, it was the grounding of that work in humility, in a genuine concern for our common humanity, that inspired folks to *lean in*.

As the **Rev. Dr. Donnie Anderson** notes, *"Pope Francis brought a ray of hope to the fractured Christian world. His emphasis on the poor and marginalized evolved from lived experience, understanding that we must move beyond charity to justice. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I am deeply appreciative of his efforts to open the doors of the Roman Catholic Church to our community."*

As many mourn the passing of Pope Francis, let us pay closer attention to the ways in which our lives of faith are tied together. In humility, let us find opportunities for collaboration while embracing and celebrating our difference.

May light perpetual shine upon him.