

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” —Philippians 1:3-5

Dear St. Philip’s Family,

I am writing to you today to share with you some important news that is both exciting and at the same time bittersweet for me and for my family. After much prayer and discernment, I have accepted a call to become the next Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Madison, Mississippi, part of the greater Jackson area. It is always an exciting adventure to step out and follow God when He calls, as I believe He has in this case. Nevertheless, it is bittersweet because we will be leaving St. Philip’s, which has become family to us over the last three years, as well as the college students and young adults whose lives I have had the privilege of sharing. At the same time, I know that the Lord who has begun a good work in you all will Himself bring it to completion.

When I think about the last three years at St. Philip’s, gratitude floods my heart: gratitude for the warmth with which you received me and my family from the first day until now, gratitude for the way in which you have received my ministry, and gratitude for the rich graces that I have received from you all. In fact, I am confident that God has used these three years to strengthen and encourage and equip me so that I would be prepared to answer God’s call to go forth and serve the people of Holy Trinity as their next rector. At St. Philip’s, I have treasured the opportunity not only to serve alongside four priests whom I dearly love and respect, but also to learn from them tools for ministry which I will carry with me for the rest of my life—tools for leadership, tools for preaching and teaching, and tools for shepherding the Lord’s flock. None of these lessons would have been possible without you; thank you for serving me and blessing me through the gifts God has given you. I can only hope that I have been but a fraction of the blessing to you that St. Philip’s and all of you have been to me and to my family.

My last Sunday at St. Philip’s will be June 22. Despite all the uncertainty of the current pandemic, I am hopeful that circumstances will permit me the opportunity to say goodbye to you in person, but should that not be possible, please know that I hold you all in my heart and will always give thanks to my God when I think of you. May God’s blessing and peace be upon you all.

Yours in the Beloved,
Ryan+