The ability to worship freely

Dear Cathedral Family

In my Vlog this week I discuss the lawsuit that has been launched by a collection of ecumenical and interfaith partners with regard to Homeland Security changing the regulations on Immigration enforcement actions taking place in sensitive locations. Our church is a party to this lawsuit and I agree with it.

Firstly I want to say what it isn't. It is not a blanket disagreement with administration policy on immigration. It is a narrow lawsuit based on the first amendment right of the practice of free religion, saying that the changes in regulations will not allow us to practice our faith freely because people who should be able to worship with us might live in fear of being arrested if they attend church.

Please read the press release from the Episcopal Church below, outlining the lawsuit. Please also download the lawsuit itself if you wish to read it. One of the best sections to read is the part that describes the different groups that have become parties to the lawsuit. Read those descriptions and recognize that we are in some good company there. And continue to pray for our leaders as they seek to change policies, and respond to the results of the last election, but let us ask that they do so with mercy and grace.

Love

Dean Matthew

Episcopal Church Press Release
https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/episcopal-church-joins-religious-freedom-lawsuit-challenging-ice-enforcement-actions-in-churches/

Lawsuit Text
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZECvVnn76PbogZ7V6pEUhkAagBdiDHaT/view?usp=sharing

Vlog
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fAd0IzQKW2jyE3quE3Fcm0t03HHI68u3/view?usp=sharing

Annual Meeting
Trinity Cathedral's Annual Meeting takes place on February 23rd. We invite you to come along. We have created a new landing page for our Annual meeting. You can find it by following this QR code. On it you will be able to respond to all invitations to attend and help.

https://trinitycathedral.org/annualmeeting

Vigils for Mercy: the work of the church in every age.

“In the name of God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now.” - Bishop Mariann Budde

Lent is a season of deep reflection leading up to Easter. Five churches are teaming up to provide vigils for those who may be experiencing fear and asking for mercy at this moment in history. We will use some of the concepts from a sermon delivered at Washington National Cathedral on January 21st at the interfaith service of prayer for the Inauguration. The themes we will focus on are: mercy, unity, dignity, truth and humility. We are specifically praying for migrants and the LGBTQ+ community. These vigils will be an opportunity for spiritual re-commitment to mercy.

The pattern will be an open air vigil at 6pm, followed by fellowship at 6:30pm.

3/12 - Trinity Cathedral - Vigil for Mercy
3/19 - First UMC - Vigil for Unity
3/26 - Westminster Pres - Vigil for Dignity
4/2 - St John’s Lutheran - Vigil for Truth
4/9 - Pioneer UCC - Vigil for Humility