



grace church....

the episcopal church in galena Illinois

June 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven... a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...a time to weep, and a time to laugh...a time to mourn, and a time to dance... Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2, 4*

All of these things ring in my heart this day as, with a mixture of wistfulness and anticipation, I announce my intention to retire in November of this year. The Rev. Andrea Mysen, Director the Bishop's staff, will join us for my final Sunday on November 15.

There are, of course, many details to work out in bringing my ministry here to a close and to prepare Grace Church for the search for its next priest. I shall do all I can to work with the Wardens and with our other clergy to continue our work together and to assist, as appropriate, in the transition. The Vestry and Wardens will work with the Diocese on the steps in the process including the appointment of a search committee.

I cherish our time and the work that we have done together—and all that remains before before my departure. I shall always look back on it with joy and affection, grateful for the very special privilege to have shared in ministry with all of you. I shall carry this church and its people with me wherever I go. You have nurtured me, you have taught me, and you have graciously allowed me to serve as your priest and rector. For all of that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

It is my hope that my ministry with you has brought—and will continue to bring—blessings to the congregation as it has to me, and that seeds have been sown that will continue to bear fruit. I also hope that Grace Church will continue to be guided by God's loving and urging presence through the next months and as you move into the challenges of the coming years. And I ask that your prayers will go with me as I move on. May God bless you.

Faithfully,  
*Gloria+*

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