

May we remember who we are, my friends. And may we remember our Baptismal Covenant and that we are the ones to share God's life and love in the world as we know it in Christ, and that can never stop. And may we never give up hope that God's Kingdom, God's reign, and God's purposes of love which we discover as we love our neighbor as ourselves in all the many complex ways we can, will move us forward. I commend to you Bishop Jennifer's meditation for this week found in this E-News at the end section. I also hold out for your reflection the Presiding Bishop's homily from All Saints' Day afternoon from the National Cathedral.

We believe as God's beloved children in Christ that the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. All people—All—Republicans and Democrats. It's not easy work, but with God's help we can be a faithful part of this mission. Here's a sneak preview from this upcoming Sunday's homily: The people of Israel are about to cross over into the Promised Land, and they are asked who they will serve. In so many words, they are asked if they will serve the idols of their time as we have the idols of our own time of political power, greed, selfishness, and exclusion before us. And they boldly answer, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

This is not easy work. But it's faithful work. God's Spirit of love among us will see us through. I'll leave you with these words from Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann (a faithful Episcopalian and member of my former parish in Atlanta, the Cathedral of St. Philip) from his poem "Epiphany"

***Lord, we are still people in the dark,
and the darkness looms large around us,
beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss—
We are—we could be—people of your light.
So we pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we exhaust our
coping capacity;
we pray for the gift of newness that will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust in your good
rule.
That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact your rule
through the demands of these days.***

In Christ's love,
Andy+