

A Word from Andy+

In all the changes and chances of life, especially in these rapidly evolving circumstances we find ourselves responding to the Covid-19 Virus, God is with us. Our vision of being an enduring beacon of faith, hope and love remains strong and grows. Let me share that your staff and clergy are still meeting through zoom and in other tele-connecting ways; your vestry met last night in a Zoom meeting; I am happy to remind you that we have a faithful, wise, passionate and energetic group of leaders on the vestry and on the staff. So many of you are responding as beacons of faith, hope and love with your time and talent and resources. Thank you!

God's life is calling us to a higher plane of living where the "higher angels of our nature" will guide us into new ways of connecting, serving, loving, giving and praying. So keep connecting and reaching out to others in need. Let us know when you need help, too. **In today's e-news and on our website, you will find many creative ways to connect and serve.**

Undoubtedly, this time brings unforeseen and daunting challenges, but God's Spirit is leading us through them. The fiery trials and flooding waters will not overwhelm us for God's love is stronger, deeper and more life-giving than anything else that comes our way. Our God in Christ is the God of redemption, always turning good from ill; always bringing life from death and loss.

Pray, be kind and generous of spirit; and rest in the assurances of God's grace. Have patience and forbearance. This can be a time of holy Sabbath, a time for us to slow down and rest; a time gratefully to remember God's blessings, taking note of God's presence with us in creation and in our families and friends. Our faith relentlessly presses us to realize the best in ourselves and in others. *Now is the time for courage, and confidence, and even peace in the thick of dread, love in the face of anxiety, and connection in the season of physical separation.* May God bless us all and the world through us.

Pax,

Andy+