

Message from Robin+

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *The Collect for Proper 14, Book of Common Prayer, page 232.*

How do we decide what is the right thing to do? Most of us spend a good amount of time trying to decide many things. When we want to make informed decisions we do a little research by asking others for their opinions, reading articles by trusted authors, or choosing sometimes to just go along with popular opinion. All of those five star reviews must mean something, right? And then I remember how my mother would say, “Just because everyone else is doing it, that doesn’t make it right.” I hear that differently now than I did when I was ten.

Whether we are about to make a major life decision, or simply trying to decide on what to cook for dinner, our lives are filled with decisions. Right now some of us are trying to determine what is safe and what would be risky for us to do in the midst of a pandemic. Should we attend church or is it too soon? Should we send our children back to school yet or let them play with their neighborhood friends? Do we stick to take out or venture to the restaurant for outdoor dining? Do we tell a loved one or friend that we can no longer remain silent about striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being?

Decisions are hard sometimes and all too often there are too many loud voices telling us what to think and do. Perhaps this is where the Collect for this week can help us. Of course, we want to always do those things that are right. What if we take time to be still with God in prayer, asking God for the spirit to think and do what is right? What if we confess and acknowledge that we cannot exist without God, and ask God to enable us to do God’s will as we make our decisions?

Each of us as a beloved child of God has decisions to make that are unique to each of us, and we won’t always make the same decisions. What is best for you may not be best for me. Our call as followers of Jesus is to respect one another and honor each other’s decisions, trusting that they have been made with care and in prayer.