

Message from Robin+

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:4-7

In this strange pandemic world, there are many things that are different, many things that are a challenge, an inconvenience, or even a loss that brings grief. In my own life, I am watching my granddaughter grow up by means of Facetime visits each week. While I am immensely thankful for this technology, there is no grandmother anywhere who is not longing to hug grandchildren, read them stories as they sit in our laps, and go on nature walks hand in hand. There is such longing for human touch and connection in all aspects of our lives.

Another place where we are longing is in our church life together. Some have returned to worship while others are not yet able to do so because of health concerns. Videos are just not the same though, and if you are attending worship on Sunday you know that even our in-person worship is not the same. While we long for a return to what we have lost, we are nevertheless called to rejoice in all things as Paul asserts in our reading from Philippians this week. This past Sunday we rejoiced that our bell choir blessed us with beautiful music! Even in our longing we can rejoice!

After careful consideration for everyone's safety, and careful planning with Marigene Little, our Altar Guild chairperson, we have determined that we can safely return to a service of Holy Eucharist at Christ and Grace. It will be different, and we will be explaining more about that in the next few weeks, but we wanted you to know that on November 1, there will be Eucharist.

November 1 is All Saints' Day which is a principle feast day in the Church, so it's most appropriate that we return to the communion table with all the Saints on this glorious day. I'll be sharing more details about this service in my messages through October.

Where are you finding places to rejoice in your lives? This week I spent some time in my rejoicing place, on the beach with a friend and with God's creation. I am also rejoicing that the week of October 18th I will finally be able to have a brief visit with my St. Louis family and spend some time with my granddaughter. My prayer for each of you is that you will look for something good in your life this week, and that even in the midst of all that is different or changed, that you will rejoice always!