

Grace and peace to you, friends in Christ,

During the time of COVID, society and church life changed all around us. (And they say, the church can't change!) I believe that God is leading us into something new in this season of Lent, as we await returning to the CTK building for in-person services. As some return face-to-face and some will remain on-line ---we hold fast to the God who fashions us into God's beloved community. We are holding our plans loosely, remaining flexible as we enter into Phase One of our re-entry plan and assessing where we are with the environment.

During the time of COVID, some of my time was spent more introspectively. I have been pondering this quote. It talks about the opportunity that the pandemic provides.

*It [the pandemic] is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it. Arundhati Roy's latest novel is 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' Copyright © Arundhati Roy 2020*

With God strengthening and guiding me, I'm ready to imagine another world with Christ the King. One where God leads, faith is strong, community matters, issues are discussed, all people are valued, and love is spoken.

Now Lent begins, historically a time of repentance and reconciliation. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that "we are dust and to dust we shall return," which doesn't seem comforting today. So I did some digging and found that the ashes are an ancient sign of repentance, suggesting repentance and renewal. In this context, I hold fast to the promise that God's Spirit is renewing and leading the church into God's hopeful future. Thus, Lent can also help us image what burdens will we leave behind as we become new creations in Christ.

This is an exciting time to be Christ the King! God is giving us the opportunity to take the lessons from the historical past, the recent past, and to discern what will serve the mission in the gospel for the future. Since, we worship a God who makes all things new, a Savior who redeems, and God's Spirit who blows when and where it wills, then we will not be the same people and the same congregation. God is leading us into new life in a hopeful future. Where is God leading.....let's imagine that together.

Pr. Jackie