



Reverend Carla E. Roland Guzmán, PhD
Rector

February 3, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

God's grace and peace be with you always! It has been a few weeks since I have written, and as with so much in the last 11 months, time has passed both slowly and quickly. So much has changed: a new year, new vaccines, new administration, and a sense that so long as we take care of one another that we are journeying toward a new life with a certain level of control of the pandemic.

There are three types of time: chronological, cyclical, and God's time. The goal is to surrender to God's time while living in chronological time. Yet, church also has a cyclical nature to it. With Lent being around the corner we are finishing a cycle of church time within this time of Pandemic. This reminds me of how much we have lived together—however differently—since the pandemic began.

This is both sobering and encouraging. However difficult and painful this past year has been, we will bring the good parts of it into our community life in the future. Some of the new use of technology will be here to stay—new ways of being community. Old ways will also remain—the best of both worlds; I am especially looking forward to being at the church together. We are also mindful that for many the next few months will be difficult, not only as we continue to be in pandemic isolation, but also because anniversaries will also come to pass. Some are approaching a year without loved ones.

Our worship continues online for the foreseeable future. We begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday worship service at 6 p.m. (February 17th). The first Sunday in Lent will remind us of Jesus in the wilderness and in the Sundays after we will learn again about Jesus' journey toward the cross and what it means for each of us to be followers of Christ. All of these are familiar Lenten themes, yet our eyes and ears can experience this journey anew; we seek new insight and to refresh our relationship with God.

Many of our programs are offered through zoom, yet worship is also accessible on Facebook and YouTube. Our upcoming schedule is as follows (in parenthesis are the Zoom ID and Password).

- **Sunday Worship** at 10 am (880 4535 2307, 470534), immediately followed by a zoom coffee hour.
- **Weekly Bible Study**: For the Bible Tells Me So on Mondays at 5:15 pm (852 0999 4342, 706030), a look at the readings for the upcoming Sunday.
- **SMST Squad** on Tuesdays at 5:30 (835 2205 3672, 032358) – Occasional gatherings to work collaboratively on specific church programs and projects. The next meeting will be February 9th and will focus on what it would look like to partner with some new renters at the church.
- **Faith Conversations** on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. (858 0991 3483, 006511) – weekly evangelism conversations, with Lenten themes this Lent.

On February 20th at 6 p.m., we invite everyone to our **Black History Month Evensong: God's Freedom**. (840 1776 6305, freedom). The next **Vestry Meeting** will be Tuesday, February 23 at 7 p.m. (874 5856 2339, 941579)

Please let us know how we can be of service. Send us any prayer requests.

May you have a blessed Lenten season,

Mo. Carla

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