

People of Grace,

Our recent circumstances, including the disruption of our daily, weekly, and monthly patterns, have me reconsidering how I measure time. Clocks and calendars help organize a schedule, but they also force a certain structure that can affect how we perceive our lives. Here in the valley, I have sometimes chosen to measure life by season and activity. Snow and skiing lead to foothill hiking and wildflowers. Then, hiking heads up to higher altitudes and alpine lakes and peaks appear. Cherries, apricots, apples, and berries follow and eventually the larches lead back to hoping for snowfall and skiing.

I have also measured my life in terms of community and belonging. My hometown makes up the first significant section of my life and schools, churches, and communities add texture and landmarks along the way. I am incredibly grateful to have belonged to this community called Grace Lutheran Church for the past five years. When I arrived, I knew so little about this remarkable place, the people who call it home, and just how much I would need all of you. With love, support, and warmth you have made space for me to belong and to become a part of this community. For that, I will always give thanks. You have also changed me and pushed me to grow in ways that I could not have anticipated. I am who I am, in part, because you are who you are.

The past few months have brought about the beginning of a new chapter for all of us, perhaps a new volume even. As we face transition and change, it can be comforting to know that communities hold experience, wisdom, and resilience that can seem scarce from an individual's viewpoint. The community of Grace is what it is because you are who you are, and who you have been, together.

It is with this in mind that I tell you I am also headed towards a new personal chapter. I have accepted a teaching position in Quincy and will start that new work this fall. I will still be here in the valley, but my role in the life of Grace will change. I am eager to bring what I have learned with you to my teaching. I am also thankful that I am able to continue participating in the life of this valley and the community here.

I am so proud of who you are and who you are becoming. There is a particular light that radiates and shines at Grace. Even though the stained-glass windows help make it apparent, I am convinced that the light comes from within the people. Let your light so shine. This world needs it and I will be forever grateful that I carry a small part of it with me.

With love and deep gratitude,  
Jameson

Director of Music Ministries