

Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends in Christ,

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

This quote speaks to me, because it assures us of the power of the present moment, and God’s transforming work in it. We need to be reminded of this, because we’re so good at hauling around our wounds from years gone by, as well as worrying about what our future holds.

Wounds and worries. Over the years, First Christian has definitely experienced both. It might suddenly feel uncertain once again, but hear this: you amazing people are the most resilient congregation I’ve met. And I know you aren’t going to be sidelined by a little uncertainty. You know there’s holy work to do, and God has uniquely equipped YOU to bless the world. *You are* the church, regardless of who’s in your pulpit, and nothing will change that.

Whatever the past has held, it has no power over us, because we are not the same people we were back then. The always-transforming, always-redeeming workings of God have ensured that. And whatever the future holds, God will be there, too, paving the way. In the meantime—in this moment—we do the work.

Christian singer/songwriter Sara Groves wrote a song called “Add to the Beauty.” I’m planning to share it with you at our last worship service on October 4th, but here are a few of the words that speak of the invitation God gives: to live in the moment, trust there is goodness ahead, and do the work while we wait for it to come. May these words become our prayer as we live boldly:

*“We come with beautiful secrets, we come with purposes written on our hearts, written on our souls.
We come to every new morning, with possibilities only we can hold, that only we can hold.
Redemption comes in strange places, small spaces, calling out the best of who we are.*

*And I want to add to the beauty, to tell a better story. Shine with the light that's burning up inside.
I want to add to the beauty, tell a better story. Shine with the light that's burning up inside.*

*And this is grace, an invitation to be beautiful.
And this is grace, an invitation.”*

As Julian of Norwich wrote, “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.” God before us, God behind us, God beside us. That’s the promise. Friends, the invitation is there—let’s go add to the beauty of this world.

With love, Kara