

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

October 25, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

I don't think anyone could have imagined the types of challenges we have encountered and to what extent they have affected our lives over the last 18 months.

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, at its core, is committed to loving God and Neighbor. I have seen this commitment demonstrated in myriad ways throughout the pandemic, from distributing thousands of meals to those in need to coming together creatively and carefully to sing and worship. I am excited to return to indoor worship and I am grateful for all your support, especially while I was away on sabbatical.

There is no greater reminder than the Beatitudes, particularly when it comes to the ways we love God and Neighbor. At the end of that amazing address to his disciples and to the world, Jesus reminds us:

“You are the Light of the world!” Matthew 5:14

In a world where so much is changing, being the light to the world does not. The world could use that light now as much as most any other time in history. The phenomenal thing about light is its ability to travel to the farthest depths of the galaxy and the human soul. I believe the same is true for stewardship. When we are the hands and feet of God in the world, an abundance of light reaches beyond our understanding. When we give to the church out of gratitude for what God has already blessed us with, God's light passes through our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls.

As we look ahead to 2022, the main certainty is uncertainty when it comes to the challenges of the world. The incarnate, unchanging reality before us is our continued commitment to God and Neighbor. There are many facets of stewardship and I would like to focus on two main areas *to be the light* this year: a **pledge** ask and a **commitment to inviting people** to our amazing church.

We need the continued support of you all and we very much need more people to join in God's mission found in the Beatitudes. There are stark financial realities as we begin to plan the 2022 budget. We need to know how to best plan for programs, staff, and outreach. And the way we know that is from the pledge cards that you turn in by December 15, 2021. The more you give, the brighter we can shine. *The only transactional gift that comes from our giving and inviting is how bright and how far our commitment to the Gospel can reach.*

Please give what you can and continue to find ways to bring others into the community of Resurrection, where death and suffering never have the final say and where hope and action form community.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy +". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive font.