

January 2022

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Letter from Mtr. Amanda Holm Rosengren

Dear Redeemer friends,

A new year is never entirely 'new,' is it? We walk into each new year with a suitcase (or whole luggage set!) full of plans, hopes, griefs, and questions. That is certainly the case for us at Church of Redeemer as we enter into our own 'new year' in the annual meeting, emerging with a new budget, a new vestry, and, we pray, a renewed sense of what the Lord is doing in our midst.

2021 carried with it many ministry joys, some of which are highlighted in the updates from our staff that will be shared in this year's meeting. At the same time, we know 2021 brought with it a heavy dose of grief. COVID continues. Racial injustice, violence, and partisan divisions are daily headlines. And even closer to home, our community continues to process our rector's absence and wonder what will happen on the other side of a third party investigation. There has been grief upon grief this year, side by side with the many good things the Lord has done in us.

Where does that leave us for 2022? I take comfort in the words of Isaiah 40:27-31:

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

In the midst of all the things we do not know, we can trust that the Lord will take care of us. The Lord is not discouraged. The Lord's work is not thwarted -- not in us as individuals, and not in our church community.

We are not alone in this season. The Lord is with us. And we are with each other. Let us continue to do the good things we know the Lord has set before us. Let us gather for worship, with others as we can. Let us devote ourselves to prayer with and for one another, whether in person or online. Let us give, out of the abundance of what God has given to us. Let us serve, whether within the church or within the community. And let us rest -- secure in the knowledge that the Lord is at work.

As we do these things, we can have confidence that the One who began a good work in us WILL be faithful to complete it.

May the peace of Christ be always with you,

Amanda+