



St. James the Less

2021 Pledge Campaign

Make Us Instruments of Hope

January 14, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ;

Grace and peace to you in the fellowship of the risen Christ.

Early in my formation as a priest, I was taught that Episcopalians are ‘resurrection people.’ It has taken me 19 years of ministry and a pandemic with social/national/political strife at a boiling point to fully appreciate the power of this way of being Christian.

You remember the Easter gospel. Jesus was crucified and dead in the grave. Peter, James and John, and all the disciples were hidden in a room behind a locked door. No doubt they were confused and angry amid the emotional chaos of the events they had witnessed. Jesus appeared, alive, yet bearing the wounds of death, inside their hidden room and proclaimed, “Peace be with you.”

My friends we are a fellowship who proclaim that Christ has died **and** Christ is risen. Jesus proclaimed the hope of God’s peace into our uncertain, chaotic, grieving hearts. And reminds us that even when it looks bleak, God is alive, leading us forward.

Estranged from our normal comfortable modes of being church, our communion is being tested, as is my leadership. We must dig deep into the bedrock of our faith, and plant ourselves in the hope of God that can bring forth the new life of wellness, prosperity, goodness and justice.

The enclosed Stewardship brochure and pledge card invite you to reflect on your financial participation in building up the kingdom of God. Entitled ‘Make Us Instruments of Hope,’ it reminds us that our participation in church shares in the resurrection life of Christ.

Thank you for sharing in this gospel. Thank you for believing in Christ’s reconciling power that seeks to bring all that is broken, fallen, and sinful into new life of communion with God. May God make us instruments of hope in our families, neighborhoods, offices, homes that we might join with Episcopalians and Christians all over the world extending the Peace of Christ to all bringing forth the Kingdom of God.

I invite you to join Chad and I in pledging to St James the Less for 2021. I challenge you to pledge for the first time if you never have. I encourage you to increase your pledge that our mission might grow into new forms of outgoing hope for our part of the world.

With you on the journey

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lisa Senuta'. The signature is written in a dark ink or color.

The Rev. Lisa Senuta, Rector