

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, November 14th, 2021, Pentecost XXV
1 Samuel 1:4-20, Psalm 16, Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-8

This is but the beginning of birth pangs. This suggests something new,

Is this the end of the focus on buildings and fabric and focusing on ministry and people? Has this pandemic forced us to find creative ways of being together which don't mean using the buildings at least in the same way?

It is worth repeating that buildings have their place in church life, but how?

In the Magazine, Ministry Matters, there was a metaphor for this. It is as if we are on a boat. In fact, most churches if you look up, the ceiling looks like it could be the bottom of a boat. Therefore, taking care of the boat and rowing is like taking care of the building and fabric and swimming is the ministry of the church and spirituality. Another metaphor is climbing a mountain. On certain high mountains you need a basecamp to climb to the top of the mountain.

We need a boat and rowing and a basecamp, but if we spend all the time with those things and activities when do we have time to swim and climb the mountain?

Maybe, just maybe, this is a time to ask us ourselves questions about what does it mean for us to be church as we come out of this time of isolation?

This is not an easy time, but again, the beginning of birth pangs, which means we don't need to have all the answers all nicely wrapped up. The early Christians were known as the people of the way. Which has the implication that they haven't arrived, but their journey continues.

One of my Theology teachers could not call himself a Christian. When I tell people this before continuing the story, they are aghast. He could not call himself a Christian because he felt he had not fully arrived and had it all together yet.

Are we, if we are honest are both like the early Christians and this teacher? Are we not people of the Way? Both in our own lives and as a community as a whole?

We don't need to have all the answers but let us not stop from asking ourselves the questions about who we are and where we are going.

Amen