



"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."
+ Psalm 98



Dear Family and Friends,

"Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing **together for joy.**" + Psalm 98:8

"Together." For almost two years, we as a church, a nation, and world have been challenged like never before to reconsider what it means to be together. As people of faith, we are confident that God is in our midst and that nothing can separate us from God's love. Yet, our definition of what it means to be together as a church has been stretched and enlarged. We have been called to exercise resilience and creativity as our congregation has embraced new ways to worship, gather, engage, and serve.

Despite all that we have faced, we have continued to grow as a church in both numbers and in spirit. Thanks to our church leadership, we are deepening our discipleship in a variety of ways. In the last year, we began live-streaming our Sunday morning services, an offering of worship for those who cannot join us in the pews. We engaged sermon series on the Lord's Prayer and the Epistle of James. We offered EYC programs outdoors and supported a great team at Glory Ridge. We partnered with the Corner Market to provide parking lot space to our local farmers market. We added Advent, Lenten, and Epiphany spiritual practices. We offered pastoral care at a distance and drive-through blessings and communion. We have ordered a columbarium to honor and remember all our saints. We began the work of racial healing and reconciliation with two Sacred Ground circles that sparked the creation of a spiritual companions group and a current book study. We held a Pentecost Party and enjoyed lemonade on the front lawn. We expanded our support of Abundant Life and our partnership with neighbors in East Greensboro. We installed our 12th Rector and celebrated our new ministry **together**. As the body of Christ, we are singing to the Lord a new song! It is a song of joy.

Stewardship is our ongoing response of thanksgiving and gratitude to our all-generous God. It is a year-round commitment of our time, talent, and treasure; that kind of giving increases our joy. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that where our treasure is our heart is also. Our annual pledge campaign, which runs from October 17 to November 7, focuses on the financial part of stewardship that sustains and supports the work of the church. We ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge for the year ahead. Your financial support means more now than ever to keep our flexibility and faithfulness alive and thriving in the year to come. Every gift is appreciated. Every gift counts.

As the world opens back up, we may never appreciate the blessing of in-person church more than we do now: the beauty of worship, the power of music, the sweetness of the sacraments, the dignity of service – always together for joy in community with God, whose love covers every distance and heals every heart. There is still much we dream to do. Worship is at the heart of our life together, and we hope to enhance and expand our online worship experience. We want to offer Christian formation opportunities for people of all ages. It is time to fund a Youth and Children's Minister. We are reaching out to support refugees and resettlement. We plan to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors and community partners to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and be transformed by God.

For all that we've already accomplished together during this challenging season and for all that we will accomplish together in the future, we thank God and we thank you. Let us be together for joy.

Keep the faith,

Rev. Ginny Bain Inman + Marion Seaman Sandy Shelton

Rev. Ginny Bain Inman, Rector

Marion Seaman and Sandy Shelton, Co-Senior Wardens

Eric Revell

Eric Revell, Stewardship Chair