

# Pastor's Ponderings

## What's Valuable?

We've just come through a strenuous election season that challenged each of us, all of us, to really think about what we value. What's important to us as citizens of this country, and which politician reflects at least some small part of what we think is most valuable for us and our families and our county.

That was a challenge, wasn't it?

The Church Unique process included those same questions about values for this congregation here on the corner of Carpenter Ave. and E St. What's important to us as members of this Trinity Church? In addition, what's valuable to God in this place? Why did God put each of us here, in this group of believers, and what does God want of us?

Last month I wrote about how we value 'Nurturing Community' as a guiding principle. Today, I will expand on the Trinity Unique value of Engaging Worship. Why and how is vital, immersive, and devoted worship important and valuable for us?

There's a prayer that I used in worship on August 16 this year:

Worship is where God invites us to come and receive inspiration and instruction that is NOT offered anywhere else in our lives. All the channels on TV and the streaming services on the Internet can't duplicate the nourishing and nurturing that comes from sitting with each other and intentionally remembering and honoring God.

Of course, during this pandemic, we are finding ways to worship through Facebook Live and telephone recordings. GOD IS THERE, TOO! Because God is not going to let a mindless virus keep us from experiencing the power and nourishment of the Holy Spirit among us.

Engaging Worship is our opportunity to be present to the power and holiness of God in community with our brothers and sisters and in communion with all who follow Jesus. Worship IS a foretaste of heaven...the place where God breaks through our thick-headed, distracted minds and our broken and closed hearts to make us new and refreshed for the world. Yes, worship prepares us to be the light of God in the world, for God's good and beautiful purposes.

At Trinity, we value Engaging Worship for all of those reasons. We engage by receiving what God so richly offers us. We also engage by participating in the movements, songs, presentation of Scripture, and preparation of the Holy space in our Sanctuary. These activities invite and encourage those who love God to share that love with those who hunger for God.

Even as we have simplified our worship experiences, we continue to need helpers who can engage in creating the most wonderful worship possible. Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming soon, and these are special worship events in the life of the church. Please ask God if you are called to help prepare the Sanctuary for Advent. Assist with recording worship for those on

Facebook. Add your voice to the virtual choir that Jeremiah is heading up. Greet people as they enter the building— with masks and appropriate distancing. Tend to the candles and the altar area, so that it is pleasing to God and to those who come to pray.

Engage and be engaged in worship...that's the Trinity value that keeps this Trinity Church faithful and excited about who we are as God's people. Please contact the office, (906)774-2545 if you want to be engaged in worship in any way!