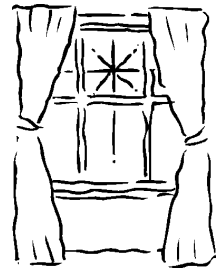


Looking Out My Window, December 3, 2021



I struggle weekly with the question, “What do I write for the community this time?” Having read many a pastor’s paragraph (and having written a few) that sound like “blah, blah, blah,” I hope to avoid that pothole.

Brené Brown, social worker, researcher, and Episcopalian says, “A story is facts with a soul.” Every Sunday, I study your faces, wondering what stories live behind them in your experiences. What stories of joy heartache, success, failure? What stories of God’s love experienced in your life?

We each bring our personal stories to this community and make them part of the Christ Church story. Both those stories get altered by being interwoven. Christ Church’s story changes because of your presence and your story changes by being interwoven in the Christ Church story. No matter where you and I go if we leave here, our stories are forever different.

Each Sunday, we tell the story of our salvation in the readings and in the Great Thanksgiving. We nest our personal stories and our church story in the great charter story of our salvation in Christ and find renewal and transformation in the bread and wine and the Spirit and the Word—the outpourings into our hearts of God’s story of saving love. We become part of God’s ongoing story—the mission of God’s saving love in our world and we bear witness to that story in our worship.

You have included me in your personal stories and in the Christ Church story and for that I thank you. Wherever life might take us, our individual stories will be forever different and richer, and our church’s story will be altered by our stories. Muriel Rukeyser said it well in her poem “The Speed of Darkness”—“The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.”

God’s peace,

*David W. Perlini*

Fr. David+, Priest in Charge