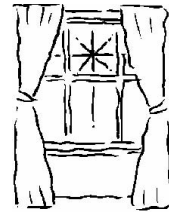


LOOKING OUT MY WINDOW, April 1, 2022



“What is the invitation we can make for people to participate in creating a future distinct from the past?” (Peter Block, *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, p 124).

We engaged in the fourth Holy Conversation this last Tuesday. In those conversations, we have heard much about problems and struggles. But, we also have heard a great deal about yearnings and possibilities. My hope for you is not that we avoid problems and procrastinate about solutions. But, I am inviting you not to focus there.

Focusing on our problems inevitably leads to blaming people whose weaknesses and behaviors are seen as the cause of those problems, what Block calls retribution thinking. That approach also dooms us to trying to fix what we believe is wrong—trapping us into a focus on the past. It’s sort of like trying to fix the ignition system on a car stuck on the tracks with the train bearing down on us.

I am encouraging you to focus primarily on the possibilities that Christ Church has for mission and for genuine community. I am inviting you into sustained concentration on possibilities. We can address problems that prove to be barriers to living into our possibilities, while keeping the focus always on the possibilities.

Block also says, “Possibility creates something new. It is a declaration of a future that has the quality of being and aliveness that we chose to live into.” (Block, p, 125) What can we create in Christ together at Christ Church that we cannot create alone?

Our conversations, undergirded by the Spirit, and permeated by the energy that possibility evokes, already are weaving us more fully into connection with each other. We will harvest the results of these conversations for the search process and for the immediate future mission of Christ Church. I am excited about how these conversations will strengthen our sense of shared belonging and guide our parish life.

God’s peace,

David

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Interim Rector