



## Looking Out My Window October 21, 2022

I find myself troubled by the word "like." I "like" Biden. I "like" Trump. I "like" . . . . In truth, unless we have a personal relationship with someone, we cannot "like" or "dislike" them. We can only "like" or "dislike" their public image or their policies. As a person of faith, whether I "like" someone's public image or their political perspective actually seems totally irrelevant. What seems relevant goes to accountability for behavior that either supports or violates the Constitution and my core values as a person of faith.

Every president, the last one and current one included, has been my president. I endeavor to pray for them and hope they welcome the divine wisdom in what seems an impossible job. I've disagreed with all of them about some of their actions, some more than others.

What seems the toughest is to call someone to account whose politics agree with mine more fully when their behavior undermines our Constitutional values and/or our core faith values of love, justice, and human dignity. I found myself in that place with Richard Nixon, someone I voted for twice but who betrayed his oath of office. It's easier to hold someone accountable whose public image I do not "like" or whose politics differ from my own. However, democracy is not "easy." No one promised it would be.

What I would invite you to do is what I try to do, detach from your "like" or "dislike" of our former and current presidents and focus on accountability for behaviors that undermine our Constitutional values and/or the core values of our faith perspective. And, just because you "dislike" a national leader does not mean you can't affirm what they do that seems to support the Constitution and square with your core faith values. No one gets everything wrong or right. As a person of faith I also face the challenge of detaching from my political party affiliation and putting the priority on core values and those who best embody them.

The word "hate"--that word, if it comes out of my mouth, should be a warning sign that I have inner work to do, that I have repentance work to do. Equally dangerous is to "hate" someone else because they view any leader or political issue differently than I might. A famous person once said, "Judge not that you not be judged."

God's peace,

Handwritten signature of David W. Perkins in blue ink.

David W. Perkins+  
Interim Rector