



6-19-14 Search Committee of Trinity Episcopal Church

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, look favorably upon us, the people of Trinity, in this transition as we search for a new rector. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be guided by your love and strengthened in our mission to serve you through ministry, fellowship and worship. We pray for the search committee, that our hearts and minds may be open to what your Spirit is saying. We pray for the priest whose name is known to you, that she or he be open to your call. Give us your grace to follow where you lead us, and grant us your peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Reflection

One of the most challenging but necessary practices within groups engaging in discernment is that of honest dialogue, what I call "contemplative dialogue" that both facilitates and manifests a group's way of being together.

Contemplative dialogue isn't easy to define but there are some qualifiers for it that can help us recognize when it is happening. In contemplative dialogue no word is the last word. Rather, we savor the space between the words, listening for some inner consonance...we can be with God in our differences, allowing those differences not to become a vehicle of separation but a window into the many facets of God's truth...we can begin to sort out what it is we must boldly claim and what we must let go. It is here that we can begin to see the inclusivity of truth.

Sometimes what we want to hold on to is some false identity, some sense of who we think we are or should be together. If we enter the process of discernment with more concern for protecting a false identity or for reaching a conclusion that we have predecided we should reach, there isn't much room for change, for transformation...Contemplative dialogue can manifest a group's willingness to allow God to reveal its true identity, to do a new deed among us.

Rose Mary Dougherty, SSND Discernment

When our work is done: At the Close of Day

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, * you that stand by night in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; * the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our

God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

The following may be said together

Lord, you now have set your servant free * to go in peace as you have promised; For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, * whom you have prepared for all the world to see; A Light to enlighten the nations, * and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

The Lord's Prayer, traditional

The Collect

O LORD, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen.*