



Dear ones,

“Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.” + Psalm 98:8

At the beginning of the year, we never could have imagined how being together would be so challenged. Togetherness at St. Augustine’s and in all other aspects of our lives has shifted in meaning and practice. In the midst of so much hardship and tragedy this year, it is the togetherness of our community of faith and the wider Church that has been a miraculous blessing in my life. You demonstrate to me daily what St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans – there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yet, amid a sea of confusion, fear, and discord, we have maintained a deep longing for some kind of joy, precisely when it became impossible to get *together* for joy in most of the ways we knew (coffee shops, dinner parties, choir rehearsal, Sunday morning worship, coffee hour, Sunday school, JuneFest and our Clothing Sale). So, we adjusted, a lot. We stretched more than we thought we could. In the midst of all the uncertainty, each of us wandered out of our comfort zones as we persisted in the kind of togetherness that makes St. A’s a beacon of Christ’s light and love in our community.

- We have maintained 5-6 worship services per week online and started a new in-person service on Saturday afternoons.
- Our music director Laura Ravotti, along with Meaghan Shawcross and our choir have made it possible for us to continue to worship God in the beauty of holiness with amazing music on Sundays.
- Your vestry and wardens have continued to meet to manage with our clergy and staff our ministries of worship, education, outreach and the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.
- Our plant sale, Pub Quiz and wreath sale were brought online to support our community and provide fellowship.

Bound by the Holy Spirit in baptism, we remain together. When we log on for Zoom worship and meetings, organize online education, gather on our lawn for worship on Saturdays, we are together in joy.

Our togetherness looks different right now, but it is happening! And through it all, we were together with God, whose love covers every distance and heals every heart.

By now, you should have received from the Stewardship Team a pledge card and a prayer. I hope you will join me, Sam, Martin and Andrew in prayer as we discern together our giving for 2021. So much is different; so many circumstances have changed. What I remain certain of is that, with God’s help, our worship and ministries will be well worth rejoicing.

We will celebrate our togetherness and common life in prayer and music on Stewardship Sunday on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us!

Faithfully,  
Jenny+

The Rev. Jenny Owen  
Rector

2021 Stewardship Prayer

*Almighty and loving God, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing.  
You know my circumstances better than anyone.  
Take my credits and debits, abundance and scarcity,  
my joy and my grief, successes and struggles  
and show me how to use them to join the great chorus of Creation. Amen*