

Sermon Theme: Embracing Change with Wisdom and Faith

Proverbs 1:20-33 – Listening to Wisdom in Times of Uncertainty

Proverbs personifies wisdom, calling out in public places, urging people to heed her voice and avoid calamity. In these uncertain times, all churches are facing challenges that call us to listen carefully to the voice of wisdom. Change is difficult, but wisdom tells us that God's guidance can lead us through even the toughest of situations. We are reminded that ignoring wisdom's call brings greater hardship, but heeding it can lead to safety and peace.

Message:

As a congregation, we must listen to wisdom in this time of change, seeking God's guidance as we face the challenge of potential changes to our Anglican churches. Just as wisdom calls out in the streets, so God calls us to respond with discernment, seeking the path that will bring us closer to Him, even if that path involves worshiping elsewhere.

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1 – The Radiance of God's Wisdom

The Wisdom of Solomon speaks about wisdom being a reflection of eternal light and a mirror of God's active goodness. Even in times of potential loss, we can trust that God's wisdom is ever-present, and His light will guide us. The merging of one church with another may seem like a loss, but with God's wisdom, it can become an opportunity to reflect His light more brightly, through unity and shared purpose.

Message:

We are reminded that wisdom helps us understand God's purpose for our future. The idea of churches closing is not a defeat but an opportunity to mirror God's goodness in new ways.

Through wisdom, we see that God's plan is always unfolding, and He will lead us to a brighter future, no matter the circumstances.

James 3:1-12 – The Power of the Tongue in Difficult Conversations

In James, we are reminded of the power of the tongue and the importance of speaking with care. As we begin to journey with one another, we must be mindful of how we speak, avoiding harmful words that may cause division. Instead, we should use our words to build each other up and speak the truth in love.

Message:

The way we talk about potential changes in the church matters. Let us use our words to encourage one another, to build each other up, and to seek unity as we move forward. The challenges we face are not the end of our story but a part of our journey as the Body of Christ.

Mark 8:27-38 – Taking Up the Cross and Following Jesus In Mark's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him means taking up the cross. Sometimes, the journey of faith includes difficult decisions and personal sacrifices. As Jesus calls His followers to lose their life for His sake, we are reminded that the church is not defined by the building we worship in but by the people who carry the message of Christ.

Message: Taking up our cross may mean letting go of some things we hold dear, including our church building. But we do this knowing that our true calling is to follow Christ, wherever He leads us. Just as Jesus' disciples had to embrace difficult truths, we too must accept that God may be leading us into a new season, where we join with others to continue His work.

Conclusion:

In this time of transition, let us embrace God's wisdom, speak words of encouragement, and trust that Jesus is leading us. The potential closure of church doors is not an end, but a step in our journey of faith, where we are called to take up our cross and follow Christ into new opportunities for worship, community, and service. Through prayer, reflection, and conversation, we will move forward together, trusting that God's wisdom will guide us through this season, and His light will shine ever brightly in the days ahead.

Let Us Pray

How good and how pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity, Heavenly Father, help us to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. May we continue to walk in love, respect and honour one another. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Good Morning,

You are receiving a note from the 4 wardens, treasurer and lay delegate. This note is speaking to a meeting with Bishop Todd on Sunday, September 8th. Please don't think we are closing. It is about ideas of perhaps coming together with the other Anglican churches in our area. Once we have more information we will be passing it along. Stay well and pray to see you soon.

God Bless,
Sheree Lynn