

From The Bishop

"We Christians like to talk about putting Christ back into Christmas, but let's not forget to put Herod back into Christmas. Herod represents the dark side of the gospel. He reminds us that Jesus didn't enter a world of sparkly Christmas cards or a world of warm spiritual sentiment. Jesus enters a world of real pain, of serious dysfunction, a world of brokenness and political oppression. Jesus was born an outcast, a homeless person, a refugee, and finally he becomes a victim to the powers that be. Jesus is the perfect savior for outcasts, refugees, and nobodies. That's how the church is described in scripture time and time again - not as the best and the brightest - but those who in their weakness become a sign for the world of the wisdom and power of God." (Joy Carole Wallis)

How does Christ minister out of our weakness? How might Christ serve through our strength? These have been my questions as I juggle strength and weakness with a heavy dose of a need to control the outcomes. What does it mean to follow the Lord in settings unsought?

Dear Kin in Christ, do not look to politics for your comfort. Scripture reminds us to not rely on our own power. I care less about who people voted for than how they embrace the least, the lost, the last and the lonely--the losers of this world God loves.

When we're too prideful to recognize ourselves in that mix, God forgive us. When we're too powerful to recognize our benefit from Herod's reign, God forgive us. When we're so desperate we forget God's ability to act in and through us, God re-orient us.

In the name of Jesus whose incarnation we celebrate Saturday and whose resurrection we remember on Sunday, Amen.