



TOGETHER
FOR JOY

"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."

+ Psalm 98

Dear St. John's Family,

September 30, 2020

A new song indeed! In spite of a historic pandemic, God continues to do marvelous things.

Who would ever have guessed we'd have a year like the one we are experiencing, and that St. John's would be navigating it so beautifully and with such creativity? We hope you'll join us in giving thanks to God for our leadership -- our amazing Vestry, staff, and stalwart volunteers. And how about our clergy -- Pastor Amanda and Father Matt? Worship online, pastoral care at a distance, Zoom meetings and gatherings, a robust Food Pantry, a successful Yard Give, and the launching of "The Village" to support our elementary school neighbors. No church is more blessed in its lay and pastoral leadership than ours!

Together in joy we are singing a new song, a song that allows for the flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness this time requires. Last year you responded with a 12% increase in pledges, reducing our dependence on our endowment. THANK YOU! Although we will come closer to balancing the budget this year, we will once again face financial challenges. After cutting expenses wherever possible, meeting this challenge will require that together we increase our pledges by 10% overall.

Ingathering Sunday is October 18th. On that day we will seek to meet the challenges before us by gathering up our pledges with a celebratory drive-up parade in front of the church. If you prefer, you may mail your pledge in the enclosed envelope.

Let us say the following prayer together as we ask God to help us discern our individual commitments.

Grateful God, for you the floods clap and the hills sing. You know my situation better than anyone. Take my credits and debits, my pluses and minuses, my surpluses and shortfalls, and show me how to use them to join your great chorus of Creation. Amen.

For all that we've accomplished together during this challenging time, and for all we will do together in the future, thank God and thank YOU! Until we can all gather in person, let us continue to *Sing to God a new song* and join God in doing *marvelous things*.

In faith,

Pamela Loose Nicole L. Pham

P.S. Together let's help the Vestry make an informed decision regarding the 2021 budget by returning your pledge card on or before October 18. Thank you!

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

321 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: (717) 299-1188 + Fax: (717) 399-3806

E-mail: info@stjohns-lancaster.org

Website: www.stjohns-lancaster.org