



Keep it Simple!

Dear Calvary Family,

We often wonder about our relationship with God and what is expected of us. Too often, I (we) try to make this relationship much more complicated than it should be. God simply wants a relationship with us where we understand by listening, where we believe in Jesus, and where we obey God's word. Moses spoke about this in Deuteronomy 30:11 - 14. Here he said:

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross that sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

In this time of transition at Calvary, I think we may get caught up in trying to make things more complicated than we need. We can continually worry about what will happen to us individually and Calvary collectively in the future. We can get anxious with ourselves and others as decisions about Calvary's future are made. We can become critical of the slow pace in which decisions about supply clergy, an interim rector and eventually a new rector are made. All of these frustrations relate back to our own desire to feel in control of our future.

I would like to reassure you that God is in control and that Calvary is continuing to accomplish God's works. This is proven through the continuity of supply clergy we have scheduled through the end of the year. This is shown through the Vestry working closely with Bishop Sauls and Dr. Kay Collier-McLaughlin to begin the process of locating an interim rector and outlining the various search processes. This was displayed by the participation of Calvary members in the "Holy Conversations" data gathering in September and October. This is shown through the continued works of the office staff, the Pastoral Care Committee, the LEMs, Carol Greene and the choir, the lectors, the lay eucharistic ministers, the ushers, the Sunday School teachers, all the other volunteers, and all worship participants.

I pray that we will all listen to God's word as given to Moses and find the simple relationship God desires with each one of us. This relationship will carry each of us through this time of transition.

Bernard O'Nan