

July 8, 2020

To the People of Trinity Cathedral:

Grace and peace be with you through Jesus Christ our Lord! It is with great joy that I accept the call to be the 21st Dean and Rector of Trinity. I am grateful for the diligent work of the Search Committee, the faithful leadership of the Vestry, and the confidence of Bishop Benfield. Their resilience and trust in God has been clear and confident through this whole process and has been to the great benefit of the Cathedral. Thanks be to God for their ministry!

I also thank the Staff of the Cathedral. It is no small job to minister and witness to God's ongoing work among us in the midst of such a trying time for communities, locally and globally. I have watched from afar as they lead worship and seek to connect with the parish. Their love for the Cathedral and for God is evident in their consistent and conscientious leadership. Thanks be to God for their ministry!

There are many reasons to be excited for the future of the Cathedral. The rich history of this place in Downtown Little Rock guides our imagination for the future. At the same time, we enter into ministry together with an unexpected future. Much threatens to divide us from one another: illness, incivility, bias, and prejudice are just a few that come to mind. The Cathedral is poised and ready to engage this time in history as an entity ready and able, with God's help, to overcome barriers and to foster meaningful connections. This is a time to find new ways to bring ourselves and our neighbors into deeper, lasting relationships with our God.

I am confident the church is not an institution unto itself. We come together to root ourselves in Christ's love and then follow Him into the world to take up His burden of love. We will do this good work together. Loving God and our neighbor will change and transform us, yoking us to God's ongoing story as it unfolds in the city around us and in the world.

I look forward to meeting each of you in person! We will develop creative and fun ways to get to know each other while keeping each other healthy and safe. Then, when we come to the other side of this pandemic, we will be ready and able to see all the ways Christ is bringing life to the Cathedral, to the Diocese of Arkansas, and to Little Rock. Thanks be to God for us and our ministry!

I began praying for the Cathedral last fall as the discernment process for all of us began. Now, our prayers unite for one another. I ask for your prayers for my family, especially for our children, as we bid farewell to a community we love. I ask your prayers for the ministry of the Cathedral, especially for the Vestry and staff during this transition and for our growth together. I ask your prayers for our world, for those who are sick, suffering, hungry, and oppressed.

Know that you, my partners in this good work ahead, are very much in my prayers. I am eager for the day when we will be praying, worshipping, and serving together soon!

Yours in Christ,
Amy+