

November 2, 2021

Dear beloved St. Peter's family,

It is with bittersweet feelings that I share the news that I have been called to a new ministry within the Diocese. Beginning January 1, I will be serving as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Thomas' Church in Whitemarsh.

The thought of serving as their priest was not new to me. Last year, during their search for a new rector, I had explored the possibility of journeying with them and was even a finalist in their process. They desire a pastoral leader who will help them heal and rebuild their community based on mutual trust. Because of the skills I have honed during my tenure as your Rector and my familiarity with St. Thomas while serving as Dean of the Deanery, I believe I have both the experience and gifts to engage in this holy work with them. I am humbled by our Bishop's and the vestry of St. Thomas' faith in my leadership.

It has been my greatest joy to serve alongside of you as members of the body of Christ here in Glenside. I have grown so much in my priesthood among you and am confident in this new call because of the journey we've been on together over the past twelve years. I am forever grateful for the love you have poured out generously upon me, Daniel, and Maggie. You accompanied us through times of sickness and sorrow, celebration and joy. This community will always hold a special place in our hearts. St. Peter's will always be our home.

My last Sunday at St. Peter's will be December 12. Between now and then I hope that we will rejoice and cry together, remembering and celebrating all the miraculous ways God has worked among us. Under the capable leadership of your vestry, wardens, and staff I trust that you will engage in this time of transition with courageous hope. I can't wait to see how the God of resurrection will make all things new among you.

For what was thanks be to God. For what is thanks be to God. For what will be thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

With abiding love,

Emily+

St. Philip's and St. Peter's Prayer

Loving God,
from birth to death, you hold us in your hand.
Make us strong to bear each other's burdens
and humble to share our own,
that as one family we may rest in your power
and trust in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
~Given to us by Rick Pearce to use during the joining of the two parishes

A Prayer for Transition

Ever-present God,
You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.
We are not where we started.
We have not reached our destination.
We are not sure where we are or who we are.
This is not a comfortable place.
Be among us, we pray.
Calm our fears, save us from discouragement
and help us to stay on course.
Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey to this
unknown place continues as a journey of trust. Amen.
-The Rev. Canon Kristi Philip