

## Faith, Hope, Love by The Rev. Abi Moon

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*“Faith, Hope, Love and the greatest of these is love” 1 Cor. 13:13*

St. Paul writes these words to the church in Corinth and is reminding them of where their joy is rooted. The joy in their world is rooted in the presence of faith, hope and love. This message holds true in our lives today as Christians. Faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, our Hope for the kingdom come and kingdom here on earth, and Love, how we are to be the faith and further the kingdom of God as witnesses in the world.

The Episcopal Church is at a crossroads- a time where our communities need the assurance of the certainty of God’s love in our uncertain world, a time to receive the warm embrace of a God who meets you where you are and welcomes you for the individual you are called to be, not that which society has marked you as, and a time to help people know that they have a purpose and reason for life. We, as the church, are poised to reach out to the world through our traditions, scriptures, and in the communities in which we live. Being poised also calls us to stretch and act!

When was the last time you invited someone to church with you? Statistics show that we only do this once every 30 years. Think about how you got involved, were you invited? Relationships matter, share your joy, invite someone in!

When was the last time you complimented someone on their gifts and talents and recognized or affirmed their calling in the life of the church? We are all called by name to be active in ministry, how are you helping others find their place and call in the church?

What was the most recent NEW thing you committed to try on in your faith? Was it a new ministry, outreach project, serving in liturgy, or praying in a new way? God reveals himself in the ordinary. The divine breaks into our each and every day. Do we see it? Do we help others see it?

I see hope for The Episcopal Church in each baptism. There is hope in the eyes of the candidate, young or old. Each Individual suspended in awe of the commitment of faith, their willingness to be vulnerable, and be accepted into a loving community.

I see hope for The Episcopal Church as we confirm youth and adults each year affirming their faith after lengthy preparations with the laying on of hands on folks, who may have just been baptized or were cradle Episcopalians, all equal in the sight of the Lord.

I see hope for The Episcopal Church as the church reaches out into the community and speaks for the poor and reaches beyond its walls to be church. Rooted in Faith, Hope and Love, The Episcopal Church will continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World. Are you ready to stretch and share your joy?