

**“Now the old has already passed away,
but the new is too new to be born today.”**

This is a lyric in Carrie Newcomers song “Light in the Window”. I’ve thought of it often as events have unfolded at Emmanuel. Dan left to begin his retirement and our Interim will not start for several weeks. There are some for whom these realities will be uncomfortable, perhaps even frightening, so I wanted to share a prayer reflection which has been used on the Adult Mission trip.

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We are creatures of comfort.  
We like to be safe and secure,  
to be surrounded by what we know,  
to be in control,  
to order our lives in the way that suits us.

We want our journeys mapped out,  
itinerary decided,  
tickets booked,  
time of arrival guaranteed,  
refreshment breaks at regular intervals  
and a credit card for unforeseen circumstances.

But Jesus said ‘follow me’ -  
without saying where he was going,  
just promising transformation along the way.

Liminal space is the place of inbetweenness, of insecurity.  
Liminal space is emptiness and nowhere,  
it is uncertainty and chaos,  
it is a place of discomfort and unrest.

Nothing good or creative emerges from business as usual.

Much of the work of God is to get people into liminal space  
and to keep them there long enough  
so they can learn something essential.

This is the invitation of our God,  
to move  
from comfort to insecurity,  
from what we know to what we have yet to discover,  
from what we are good at to what we might fail at,  
from safety to a place of risk.

Let us be brave enough to accept the invitation.  
Let us be willing to live in liminal space.  
God, help us to trust you and to set out.  
We recognise that you are calling us  
to leave what we know and venture with you into new things,

into engagement and participation,  
into creativity and risk,  
into new structures and opportunities.  
On our journey of faith,  
far we have come,  
far we must go.  
Let us always trust that we travel with You.

Jonny Baker

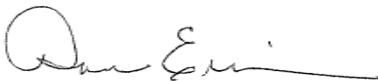
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It's true, there is much that is changing; what isn't changing is that we are still Emmanuel. We will still gather together on Sunday mornings and feed each other -around breakfast tables as well as around the altar. We will deliver flowers, distribute communion to shut ins, and offer intercessory prayers. We will gather for Bible study, planning sessions, Committee meetings and fellowship. We will serve the community with Brown Bags, the Food Center, the Egg ministry, ingathering for Webster Rock Hill Ministries, Peace Meal and the myriad forms of outreach through which we act out our Baptismal vows.

We will pass the peace, reach for the hands of our brothers and sisters during the Lords Prayer, welcome the stranger and share each others joys and concerns.

We are still Emmanuel -God is still with us.

What a gift this time could be:
Let us be brave enough to accept the invitation.
Let us be willing to live in liminal space.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan E...' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Junior Warden