

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Dear friends,

What a journey of the heart! I have missed all of you so much. Over the past two years, since you sent me so faithfully, I have discovered that there really is no 'near' and 'far' and that we are all so closely knit together in the global human family.

I have journeyed into Alaska, serving as a supply priest in Homer, Cordova, Kenai, and Tanana, discovering in small gatherings so much life and wisdom. I worked alongside Rev. Belle Mickelson in the Alaska Native villages with children, youth, elders and musicians as a priest, instructor, and organizer for the [Dancing With The Spirit](#) traveling music ministry, especially in the Gwich'in communities of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Circle, Chalkyitsik, Beaver, including an intergenerational road trip to Teetl'it Zheh (Fort McPherson) in the Northwest Territories.

I served abroad as a volunteer teacher in Lebanon as part of an interfaith mission for refugee youth, [Relief & Reconciliation](#), learning about Abrahamic hospitality, community, historical and colonial legacies, ancient lands, and profound human hardship, including in the aftermath of the Turkey-Syria earthquakes nearby. While on site, I organized an online spiritual gathering, [Awakening to the Global Embrace of Beloved Community](#) across many time zones with Laura Orcutt in the Diocese of Utah, following the path of the sun across the Earth. When I returned, I volunteered at the [Parliament of the World's Religions](#) in Chicago, eager for faithful encounters and conversations about this tender moment in our world.

As I prepare for my next call as Vicar of [Christ Memorial Episcopal Church](#) on Kaua'i in the Diocese of Hawai'i, beginning in November, I am so grateful for all that binds us together in the Body of Christ across time, distance, and mystery.

This Sunday, October 22, 12:30 pm, I look forward to spending a quiet moment at St Mary's in Waldron Hall and sharing a few reflections. I would love to see you then. In any case, I know I will be taking you with me with every heartbeat, drawing strength and courage from your faithful witness, and grateful beyond words for all that you have taught me about love and beloved community.

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. ~ Ephesians 3:20-21*

Faithfully, with love,



The Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp