



Trinity Presbyterian Church

5533 North Sixteenth Street
Arlington, Virginia 22205

(703) 536-5600

www.trinityarlington.org

A POEM FOR STEWARDSHIP SEASON 2021
Rev. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt
(with apologies to Dr. Seuss and anyone who reads it)

It is stewardship time once again here at Trinity.
Don't worry, it's three weeks, not into infinity.
It's important to stop and to talk of finance,
Plan for the year and not leave it to chance.
So here's where we stand, if you will, at a glance.

As a church we have weathered a global disruption,
A virus that brought a two year interruption
Of doing things "normal" inside of our building.
We thought it would pass, but it proved quite unyielding.
We handled it well, at least that is my feeling.

We worshiped in masks, and we altered our singing,
Held service outside on the lawn, praises ringing.
In Spring the cicadas grew loud on the scene.
In Fall acorns pelted us (squirrels can be mean).
In winter, we worshiped at home, with a screen.

We weathered a Christmas with brand new traditions.
No caroling, not candles, but great intuition.
"Let's come to the church amid twinkling lights.
Let's lay out a path, luminaries at night!"
It wasn't the usual, but for this year just right.

We kept holy Lent, used our imaginations.
to honor Christ's cross, laid out worship in stations.
At Easter we greeted our friends on the lawn.
We started quite early, just after the dawn.
The people kept coming, kept joining the throng.

And through all of this time, our youth they kept meeting.
They practiced safe distancing, wide apart seating.
They gathered in small groups or all in a mass
To study and play and make friendships that last.
And they kept doing mission, as they had in the past.
They helped with our young ones, they thought it was cool
To roll up their sleeves for Vacation Bible School.
Our children were nurtured through stories and song,
Through books read aloud for the whole season long,
On videos featuring otter and the gang.

Our mission kept growing without any pauses.
The pandemic brought need and new local causes.
We CROP walked and angel treed, prayed for our neighbors.
We assisted with rent, and continued our labors
Toward justice and peace, as we followed the Savior.

Are we perfect? My goodness, no, have you been listening?
We don't think our crowns are all polished and glistening.
We're ordinary folks, just regular people
Who meet here to worship under Trinity's steeple.

But we haven't laid down, we keep forging ahead.
With God's kingdom before us and Christ in the lead.
As we look to the future, when things will get better
We're excited to plan for more normal weather.
And that's where we stand as we write you this letter.

We have challenges facing us, there is no doubt.
We have new staff to hire, future goals to work out,
Like our digital presence and worship live-streaming,
And how much we zoom versus face-to-face meeting.
We've all learned a lot and these changes aren't fleeting.

Your giving sustains us, you already know.
We can't light our lights without healthy cash flow.
We can't pay our staff and we can't grow our mission,
We can't bring our dreams and goals to fruition,
Without all your pledges and strong contributions

So fill out your pledge card or set up a plan
To support all of this with a click of your hand.
However you give, you can know in your heart,
That your gifts will be used in ways that are smart
To further God's Kingdom right here on the earth.

Dear Trinity Friends,

We did have some loss of giving over the pandemic year, but we are on the rebound with the return of in-person worship, Sunday School, and other activities. We are emphasizing the need for giving to the Operating Fund this year since we have quite a bit in the building preservation fund (even after replacing the narthex roof while we were out of the building).

Thank you for considering your gifts to Trinity for the coming year and for letting us know through the website or by returning your pledge card in worship or to the church office. We will be celebrating Commitment Sunday on November 14 at both the 9:00 and 11:15 services.

We have traditional and new ways of giving. You can give through the Trinity website, through the church office, or using our new text to give option (833) 940-3026. If you would like to set up an automatic bank draft (no fees involved) and have questions, please e-mail Carol Hart, Trinity's treasurer.

Thank you for continuing to be a vibrant and impactful community of faith in the midst of challenging times.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Judith