

From Our New Incumbent



Dear Friends,

I want to share with you how much my family (Holly, Madeline, and James and I) look forward to joining you at Redeemer and take this opportunity to tell you something about my ministry.

I am a person of deep faith. My own inspiration comes from a life rooted in prayer and lived out in service, with joy.

I believe that worship, offered with beauty and reverence, is the most important thing we do. It is the outward expression of our gratitude to God and it sustains us every day of our lives. Outreach is another one of my passions. Having been a homeless-youth myself, I know the sense of emptiness that makes those without a place to call home hunger for food and thirst for God. Throughout my ministry, outreach has always been paramount and deeply personal. With regard to making our faith known, I am captivated by scripture and exuberant in sharing the stories that have shaped our common life and celebrating them in the sacraments that sustain us as we continue God's story in the world.

I believe that leadership is about inspiring others to see that God calls us to endless possibilities. As a result, I always strive to create a rapport with staff, parishioners, and the many relationships that I have developed in the communities in which I have served. Because I have made compassionate communication central to my ministry, I hold pastoral care as sacred - both with respect to being with those in crisis and just keeping in touch. Lastly, I have a great sense of humour. At St. George's, where I currently serve, we laugh as much - and as hard - as we work.

Most importantly, I want to tell you what I believe about the Church of the Redeemer. Some churches feed people's *longing* for God, but the community has no unity, there is an individual connection to their sense of the holy, but no connection to their neighbour, no service to the world, no sense that they are one body. Other places feed people's need to *belong*, they have a warmth and fellowship, but it isn't formed by a deep and abiding faith. They are more like people of goodwill who have a shared history, but not a shared sense of belonging in the ongoing story of the Gospel as it unfolds in their lives.

I believe that Redeemer is a place where longing and belonging meet, a place where radical welcome and relentless hospitality have created something beautiful and sacred.

Lastly, I look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones. I am excited about embracing our ministry, together, in August when I arrive "at the corner."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Steven+