

Monday, 5 July 2021 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

"The rocket's red glare...the bomb's bursting in air..." This past weekend has been filled with celebration as we again marked the beginning of our country, when we declared our independence and began to live into what was envisioned as a democracy, a continual work in progress. Many of us at least watched the fireworks lighting the night sky with reds, blues, greens, purples, whites, and in all kinds of patterns. Many of us probably also celebrated with family and friends gathered, bearing witness together to this freedom which we mark each year.

We mark this move from being colonists under a king removed from us to being self-governed and independent once a year. But each week we Christians mark a more profound freedom, and one that has an even greater impact upon our lives: the freedom from sin which we were unable to do anything to earn but have only received by grace. As Paul writes, "Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers [read: family], that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38-39, NRSV).

Every week as we gather in worship we celebrate this forgiveness, this freedom from sins, which has been granted us. As we pray together our Prayer of Confession, we likewise receive the Assurance of Pardon - the reminder of our freedom, and we are invited to celebrate with joyous hearts and thankful lives. Even greater than our annual fireworks, we weekly lift our hearts in gratitude and joy. May we mark our days with this joy, this thanksgiving, for the glory of the Kingdom of God.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the freedom you have offered us. Help us to live as people filled with joy and gratitude, and to show to others the grace we have received. Amen.