

Tuesday, 31 August 2021 - Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

It may not be 8:00am on a Monday, but that doesn't mean that inspiration and uplifting perspectives can't come to us at any given moment on any given day. Our inspiration this afternoon is of that form.

Many of you are aware of the current realities that have surrounded the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the refugee families that have been incorporated in this. Regardless of anything else, I think we can agree that such an evacuation creates a humanitarian need.

As people of faith, children of God, we are called to remember that, even if we have not felt this need directly, our heritage contains such occasions. As far back as the time of Israelite slavery in Egypt and subsequent exodus, the people of God have been reminded that they are to be mindful of and look favorably upon the resident aliens (foreigners) who now live among them, for the Israelites were at one point such resident aliens themselves. Remembering the treatment they had received, and the sense of displacement they had lived with, they are called in faith to show grace and compassion to others experiencing such states now.

As early as the book of Exodus, following the departure from Egypt, Moses was commanded to remind the people to "not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:1, NRSV). Likewise, the people were reminded that they, too, knew the heart and experience of these resident aliens, having been such themselves (Exodus 23:9).

We, too, are still aliens; in this world we are reminded that our true home yet awaits us. May we continue to practice compassion, grace, and care for those who are in need. If you would like to do something to help those who are now with us in our area at Fort Lee, please click or tap the link back on the Welcome page to see a flyer which lists items needed by the refugee families.

Prayer: Lord, help me to remember that I, too, am an alien, moving through this world toward the kingdom you have prepared. May I treat others with the same such grace and compassion you have already shown me. Amen.