

RECTOR'S MESSAGE – May 3, 2026

"Let not your hearts be troubled" - John 14:1

Faith in God is what carries us on in an era of global uncertainty marked by economic shifts, political instability, and digital-age isolation. And Jesus' opening command in the Gospel of John chapter 14, "Let not your hearts be troubled," is a radical call to trust in a stable reality beyond earthly circumstances from what we see happening around us. For us as disciples, troubled hearts can't build bridges. As a faith community we have to choose peace over hostility, unity over fragmentation, and we as a Church need help in building relationships across traditions to let everyone know that our *hearts* are need not be troubled as much as we are doing the right thing, in proclaiming the Gospel that is devoid of calumny.

The first work of the resurrection community is non-anxious presence. Before we speak with humility, conviction, and hope, we have to let Christ steady us first of all! We are Easter people, and we don't have to pretend we live in a troubled world. However, our faith is in the midst of the chaos around the world we *refuse* to rent our hearts to it. In brief, our Easter Season takeaway as a Church starts with the question: Can we stay non-anxious when things blow up around us? I don't think so! But resurrection begins with regulated hearts, and that's John 14 in 2026 for us. The risen Christ still had wounds, but remained calm, stable and continued to allay all fears of His disenchanted disciples. We too as a witnessing church today rely on Jesus' promise that we will do "greater works than these" (John 14:12), which is often interpreted in the global 21st-century context through the lens of the church that is stable, calm and could reach out with a voice to be heard loud and clear for good! A church that confesses and preaches Easter is a church that has a voice to calm the storms in the midst of a chaotic world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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