

November 3, 2020

Dear Church,

I am writing to you the morning of election day, and to be honest I feel I am struggling for words to describe what this feels like. We have never approached an election, as a nation, with more trepidation at the outcome, concerns about whether or not the results will be accepted gracefully, or whether our democracy is going to hold up. We have never had more at stake. By the time you read this, the votes will have been cast, and we may even have a president-elect. I don't know who will win, I don't know how the country will react, and I don't know what this election will mean for our nation in the long term. Here's what I do know:

- 1) God is Bigger than any election.** Whatever happens today, or in the coming weeks, or however long it may take for this decision to unfold it does not, will not, cannot change that God is the One who holds us fast; the One in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Our world, our country, our government, our society, each of us will still be held securely in the hands of a God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 2) The work continues.** Regardless of who wins the White House, which party holds control over the Senate, or the House, this election is not the end of our work, but yet another beginning. There are deep needs here in Cache valley, around the country, and in the world. There will still be a need to welcome the stranger, tell the truth, protect the innocent, stand up for the marginalized, and defend the foreigner. God still calls us to "love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly with God" as the prophet Micah writes.

I can't say that I am not nervous this morning or that I am not a little anxious and/or a little fearful about what our country could become in the next month. But today I quiet those fears with the reminder that God is in control (even when it doesn't seem like it) and that God calls us to be the agents of mercy, grace, compassion, justice, and wisdom in the world. So today - breathe, drink some water, and take breaks from the screens. Because tomorrow, the work of bringing about the beloved community of God continues.

Peace be with you all,

Pastor Emily