



*"You are the light of the world!
You are the light of the world!
But if that light is under a bushel,
It's lost something kind of crucial
You've got to stay bright to be the light of the world."
— Godspell*

Dear Friends,

These words, adapted from Matthew 5:14, remind us in a fun way that, although our light may be shining, "something kind of crucial" is lost if we don't bring the light we have out into the world, for all to see, for the glory of our generous God and the building of the kingdom.

This past year, I have seen that light demonstrated joyfully in our own parish: in our worship, our formation, our care for one another and service to the wider community, and in our fellowship in our new parish house!

I am overjoyed at the generosity of the people of Grace, because when we bring our light out into the world, we express our gratitude, confidence and willingness to take risks as followers of Jesus remaking the world. In making our light visible, we keep our salt flavorful, as Jesus puts it in these words from *The Message*:

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill."

Indeed, our work, our prayers and our giving are all about making God's flavors, colors, and love visible and available to all in our lives. And they are about our willingness to accept the challenge to stretch and grow, into our individual purpose, and into the mission of our church.

I ask all of you to reflect on the gifts you have received, and to consider how God is calling you to risk "flavoring" the world with your time, talents and treasure. I pray that we will join together to give abundantly to bring light into our lives and the world around us.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Gloria Hopewell, D.Min. Rector