

Wednesday - April 29, 2020

Church of Reconciliation,

My name is Joshua Woods+ and on Sunday, April 19, 2020, I accepted the call to be your next rector. My wife, Laura, and I have been celebrating privately for the last week and half until we could share the news with my current parish, St. David's of San Antonio, and with you, my new church home and spiritual community. My time at St. David's has been an incredible beginning to my ministry as a priest, and now I look forward to taking the next step and joining you in ministry.

I have been a longtime admirer of your community. Your reputation as an authentic, creative, and inclusive community within our diocese precedes you. Just as your founding rector, the Rev. Joseph Brown, dreamed, you have become a church that is known by your love and compassion that has formed you to be "a reconciling force in the family, the community, and the world." I share this dream with Rev. Brown and now I hope to live into it with you.

My first service with you will be Sunday, June 28, 2020. In preparation for that service, I looked ahead in the lectionary to see the readings that we would share on that day. Appropriately, this is the beginning of the Psalm we will read together:

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.  
For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

This passage speaks to my hope for us as a community--that together we will be a church that commits ourselves to proclaiming the love and faithfulness of God to all people. That, above all else, we will be persuaded that the love of God excludes no one and invites all to the table, to be known and to be fed.

In the meantime, soak up every moment with your incredible interim and my good friend, the Rev. Judith Rhodes. I look forward to serving you alongside her in the very near future.

With endless gratitude and infinite excitement for our future together,  
Josh+