



St. Francis of Assisi | October 4, 2017

Dear fellow pilgrims on The Way,

WE WALK AN UNKNOWN PATH. Through dense jungle we travel.
The placement of our steps must be intentional and deliberate
lest we be caught up in the thick of it. Yet
great joy is found in the journey.

Stewardship is all about movement. A movement of our mind. A movement of our heart. A movement of God's Spirit within us.

When Jesus called his disciples to start a movement in 1st century Palestine, he didn't make any promises of an easy path. For example, when he called St. Matthew (Matthew 9.9-13) Jesus didn't promise much of anything.

Rather, it was what Jesus modeled – what Jesus embodied – that captivated that Jewish tax collector and changed him forever.

Each time we visit the Emmanuel Episcopal Church campus, we don't just enter church grounds. We don't just walk into a church building. But we intentionally and deliberately journey into *sacred space*. Space that affirms the dignity of every human being. Space that delights in God's creation.

Fellow travelers, we are called to be loving **stewards** of that sacred space. We are called to embody a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with the earth.

As disciples of Jesus, just like the Apostle Matthew, we are invited to a difficult yet joy-filled journey of loving stewardship. Just like that Evangelist, we are asked to give up our money, our time, and our energy, and to share our newly liberated passions, hopes, and our dreams.

We have every reason to resist that difficult, but life-empowering "giving up." The world today seems, so often, to be like a dense jungle. It can be exhausting and deflating, puzzling, and outright horrific.

Yet much joy remains to be uncovered! I truly believe Emmanuel's sacred space is a Divine gift to the world that can make that happen.

Stewardship is all God's Spirit moving minds and hearts – daring us to become loving stewards.

This is what it is to walk an exciting, yet unknown path. And to invite others to join us on The Way.

From a fellow traveler and guide, Christopher+
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