



## Goodbye & Gratitude from Pastor Jasmine

Jan Richardson has a beautiful short morning prayer that begins: “Blessed are you, O God, who created the world with a word and who fashioned your people from dust and from delight.” Psalm 8 is similarly full of awe and delight at our Creator God, and the way we as humans are connected to all created things. Perhaps like many of you, I have felt awe in God’s creation when encountering a starry night sky, or a beautiful sunrise, or watching birds nest in a tree. I’m grateful that God gives us that spirit of wonder in our hearts, and that as the church community we can encourage one another in that awe and worship of our divine Creator.

I first got to know Kirk in the Hills nearly ten years ago, in August 2016. I cannot begin to share the gratitude I feel for the times I’ve been welcomed into moments of birth and baptism, as well as the thin place near end of life. Supporting families as they grieve their loved one’s loss and being a voice of hope in Christ’s resurrection has been one of my greatest privileges. As the Kirk begins a chapter with two new associate pastors, I hope you will support them the same way you supported me. Allow them to be themselves, and use their God-given gifts for the places of ministry that are needed most. Encourage them, even when it seems like everything is going well. And together, let us continue to find our place in the created universe and move through life with wonder and awe. Thanks be to God.