

Your Daily Church Epistle

Confirmation 3

Thursday, 16 July 2020

Hello Church!

Our plans for our incredibly unique Confirmation celebration are well underway! Kathy and I have been checking with Zoom small groups and Zoom prayer service (9:30 a.m. Sunday and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday) attendees, and have learned that for some folks we need yet another option for card delivery—it seems some folks will not be able to do the drive-thru. Another opportunity for grace to be extended! HUZDAH! You can also mail your well wishes directly to their homes. All their parents are listed in the church directory: Graham Close, child of Steve and Margie Close; Marin Munro, child of J.J. and Nicole Munro; and Anna Olson, child of Chris and Jodi Olson.

Our final baptismal/confirmation congregational response is this:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Monday and Wednesday's DCE celebrated Marin and Anna. Today we celebrate Graham Close. For his confirmation hymn of praise, Graham chose "I Will Call Upon the Lord." And for his verse Ephesians 2:10:

"We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives."

As an active member of our liturgy team, Graham is familiar to many of us. Graham has an unflappable presence, a calm that takes life in stride. Graham is the sort of liturgist that can step up when someone else cannot read for some unforeseen reason. For a guest in worship, he does it so seamlessly that he has to announce that he is not the name listed in the bulletin. Such public speaking skills are neither taught nor caught. It is a way of being that seems natural because it is natural, a way God makes some of us. Like other gifts of skill, public speaking can be improved, and Graham works on being his best. The liturgists only

meet once or twice a year as a group, but when they meet Graham is always there and follows through on their common instructions well. We can be grateful that Graham is among those who are gifted to be the voice for us all.

Public speaking isn't Graham's only easily seen gift. He has intellectual gifts as well, especially related to math. Consequently, Graham sees environmental patterns others miss. When doing our confirmation studies, Graham's ability to see these patterns also helps him to first see things theologically, and then restate them so his peers can understand what he sees.

The verse Graham selected as his confirmation verse, is one that gives God credit for making each of us the unique person we are. We all know that we are all created in the image of God, but in that there are many diverse gifts because we are all so differently and wonderfully made. Graham's verse is that recognition that God made us as we are to do good things. It is good to see such humility in a talented young person on the cusp of adulthood. Graham's humility can inspire hope in us all that God has a plan, and just look at the talent God has created to help us all realize it.

Today, let us all focus on the promise Graham has shared with us as his confirmation scripture. Let us all live aware that we are created by Christ according to God's plan for good to thrive in the world.

Church, we are truly blessed by these three confirmands—Graham, Marin, and Anna. Together let us thank God for bringing this trio of grace filled humans into our church family.

Blessings abound!

Rev. Dawn