

What a joy it is to have the opportunity to serve with all of you as you serve our church, our community, our world, and our God. Recently I have had the pleasure of meeting the Session of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, where I was invited to serve as the part-time Bridge Pastor for this congregation. Having just moved to the area seven months ago, I will look forward to meeting you as we discern where and how God is leading us into the future. Truly, changes and transitions are inevitable in all of our lives, and changes and transitions can indeed be opportunities for growth, for through God's grace we can discover the new things that God is seeking to share with us in this place. The prophet Isaiah has even offered a word of hope to us:

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert (43:19).
Even now, God is at work among us, continuing God's creative, reconciling, and renewing work that we might not be able to anticipate. Our faithful discipleship involves being eager to follow where God is leading us, and to be open to new expressions of reconciliation with God and our fellow human beings, to be awakened by new perceptions of Scriptural truth, and to be enriched by new forms of Christian community.

Therefore, as we prepare for worship and await the newness that God intends, let me encourage you to meditate on the following prayer (composed by Walter Brueggemann):
Giver of all good gifts, through Your grace and mercy,
all things will be yet again made new.
Make new by Your Spirit;
make new the church where we live;
make new the public reality of justice among us;
make new the practice of compassion in our neighborhood;
make new the surge of peace in our violent world;
make new the policies of our government and the workings of the church.
Good and generous God,
we do not ask to be dazzled;
and we do not ask to be made smooth in success.
We ask rather for courage to be faithful,
so that You would inspire us and empower us
to embrace and share the new life of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.