

MIDWEEK MISSIVE – 01/04/18

Thursday January 4, 2018

As I sit in my warm home, the wind is beginning to pick up and I wait for the snow begin to fall. They are saying that this will not be an idyllic, gentle snow, but a Nor'easter that will leave us with up to 16" of snow and threatening the coastal areas with flooding and ice. I pray for your warmth and safety as we ride the storm out.

My plan for this first missive of the new year was to talk about resolutions, and how we change ourselves to continually come closer to being the people God intends us to be. But the pending storm has me distracted, especially as I worry about those without heat, or food, or even a place to find shelter. I wonder what I can do, and how I can help. Donating to shelters and programs that help those in need is a start, but it somehow seems inadequate. Prayer is a powerful force, but leaves me feeling that I need to do more.

As a church, what can we do? Pretty much the same things that we can do as individuals: pray, support programs that help our brothers and sisters in need, and volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, I will get a list together of those agencies that could use your help, and most importantly, your presence. When it is set, we will have them available in the chapel.

As I look out the window and see the snow is starting to fall, my mind comes back to resolutions, and I am struck by the fact that maybe the best resolution I can put in front of me is to help. Help through volunteering and supporting those in need. Help through being a friendly presence to those who are friendless, or tired, or lonely. Help by simply being aware that there are more important resolutions than losing weight or getting in shape. I don't know exactly what that looks like for me or for the good people of the Candleberry Chapel, but I think it is worth exploring as we embark on this new year, 2018.

The snow is falling harder now and I brought back to the reality of living in New England with it's cold and snowy weather. It is a blessing to see the beauty of God's seasons, but it is also something that has the potential to be foreboding and dangerous. Not to wax too philosophically, but it strikes that life is like that, too. Beautiful, yet sometimes scary. May this day find you safe, and enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Be warm and be safe!

Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad

WINTER WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

With any luck, this storm will be quick and things will be cleaned up by the time of our weekend services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. However, in the event that any Chapel events are cancelled or delayed, we will do three things: change the greeting on the voice mail at (508) 222-2525 to reflect any changes; put a note on the webpage (candleberrychapel.com); and put a note on our Facebook page. Please check the voice mail first!

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi