

Every week, regardless of what church I find myself in, regardless of what community of faith has welcomed me, we pray these words ‘...your kingdom come’. Just what does that mean? What does it mean for us as Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters? What does it mean for the United Church of Canada? What does it mean for the Christian church as a whole?

Brian McLaren writes “Jesus proposed a transformative vision of God. God isn't the one who condemns the poor and weak. God isn't the one who favors the rich and righteous. God isn't the one who ordains the rich to be in the castle and the poor to be in the gutter. God is the one who loves everyone, including the people the rest of us think don't count.”

This year has been a continuation of transformation within our church as we continue to live into our new structure and to say goodbye to the old. As we work through our first year as elected officers of the new Region, there are joys and sorrows, losses and blessings. From my personal point of view, it has offered me an opportunity to spend time with the people who are the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters region. I have traveled throughout New Brunswick and PEI and I have had the privilege to meet with and listen to stories from the most amazing people. I have heard about their joys and sorrows, their losses and blessings and it has moved me beyond words.

My work is continuing as there is still one Our Mission, Our Vision workshop planned after weather interfered and it had to be rescheduled. The information is being entered into spreadsheets and the process of analysis is ongoing and soon there will be some concrete information to build our vision of the future on.

I have also been privileged to be present and to participate in many of the covenanting services that have sealed the covenants between the Region, clergy and communities of faith. What a joy that is! And what a promise each of these new pastoral relationships bring to our church and the future of our church.

With this first presidency quickly coming to its end, I am excitedly looking forward to our gathering in Sackville, sharing more of what I have learned this year with you and proposing a Mission and Vision that will carry us into our future together. And I look forward to hearing more of your stories...more about what is important to you... more of your hopes, dreams and wishes for our church.

If I have learned nothing else from our time together, it is that God is at the centre of all we do. That if we continue to focus on the place that God has in the creation, if we continue to focus on following the way... the path that Jesus has shown us, then, well, what can possibly go wrong.

Blessings!
Audrey