

Dear Friends,

Happy Fourth of July! I hope that you are enjoying the holiday on this beautiful day. [I also hope that you will view the Sunday, July 5 service on YouTube.](#)

We thank Kasha for her music and Ann for her children's message. Also, blessings to Ann as she continues to recuperate!

In keeping with our church's tradition of having the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of the month, we are celebrating the sacrament in a virtual way. Choose whatever you would like for the juice and the bread (or gluten-free wafer) that we usually have in the sanctuary, and partake of the Lord's Supper while watching the YouTube service when I offer the liturgical words for the sacrament.

The sermon is based on the Gospel reading of Matthew 11:25-30 where Jesus invites us to come to him and find rest for our souls. In the sermon I also include an invitation and welcome associated with the Statue of Liberty. It is the poem engraved on a bronze plaque that is found on the pedestal of the statue. The poem is titled "The New Colossus" and it was written in 1883 by Emma Lazarus. I share it with you now as it holds its relevancy, power, and meaning on this Independence Day 2020.

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Please hold in prayer Ann Labby, Gail Bergan, Dick & Laurette Dupree, Joe Johnson, Stephanie Kapper, Larry Herrold Jr., Loretta Citrano, Annette Bowman, Penny Beaulieu, Judith Vezina, Megan, Richard Boucher, Steve Hodge, Laura Beaulieu, Colleen Olsen,

Nancy Mehler, Carol Carnemolla, Eleanor Rodrigue, Rita Richter, Martin Moon, Steven Winakor, Marge Tacey, Mark Vetrano, and the family and friends of Carl Rodenhizer.

Blessings to you on this holiday and every day,
Jane