



Wednesday 11 November 2020

Election Reflection #2

by Pastor Mark

It's taken days, but we have an unofficial election result and can now congratulate Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Without a considerable revision of the vote count, they will be our next president and vice-president, respectively. Once again, our constitutionally-based election system is working as it should, even if, as Winston Churchill called our democratic system of government, "the worst possible system of government except for all the others."

Feelings are hurt on both sides of the ideological chasm. Some voters hoping for President Trump's re-election are bitterly disappointed, and others feeling disenfranchised by an election winner who they believe cannot represent their concerns and values. On the other side, many who voted for Joe Biden are frustrated that President Trump is refusing to concede the election, citing massive voter fraud he has yet to substantiate. Even more are perplexed at how someone they perceive as thoroughly reprehensible continues to garner the unwavering and unquestioning support President Trump enjoys.

As a nation, as local communities, as a church, and as families, we need to talk —to air things out, decompress, listen to and understand each other, and sort out how we all can move forward in

constructive ways. We have relationships to reconcile and reconstruct. And we need to, together, get back to work dealing with the needs of our day.

One way we can facilitate this process is to create safe spaces for dialogue, places and situations in which we can talk to each other without anyone feeling that they will come under attack for what they say or believe. Another is to ask ourselves a basic reality check question: "What would I honestly think about _____ if the other guy had won the election?" For example, if I am unhappy with the presidential election and ready to write it off as a result of voter fraud, I can check myself by asking, Would I believe there was fraud if my candidate won?

As followers of Christ, we join Christ in standing between God and the world. Not beholden to any political party or ideology, we live by the words of Psalm 118:8, "It's far better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust any human." So, we can stand in the gap, clear-headed about the way things really are and offer ourselves as peacemakers and healers as we all recover from a stressful election. We are awash with God's love through Jesus and spreading that love can do nothing but help.

Tecumseh Fresh Food Initiative Saturday 11/21

12:00pm through 1:30pm or until the food runs out

Available to all in need. Spread the word!



Worship This Sunday (11/15)

Join us for in-person worship on Sunday. Pastor Mark will preach out of **Matthew 25:14-30**, Jesus' parable of the valuable coins.

This Sunday's lay reader is **Brad Peake**.

You can also pick up a podcast of Sunday's worship from our website (tecumsehumc.org).

Adult Sunday School adds Zoom

The class, which meets in our Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, is adding remote access through Zoom.

[Click here to join the class through Zoom.](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2096 2318 Passcode: 897250

The class is in conversation about racial justice guided by the book **Be the Bridge** by **Letasha Morrison**. It has been interesting, thought-provoking, and sometimes challenging. Jump in any time.

Questions? Contact Susan at 517-423-4990

Thanksgiving Worship Service

Tuesday 11/24 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

One of the best ways to get through and get over a tough time (like this year) is to stop focusing on the troubles and look to the blessings we experience in an abundance that may be surprising. We'll do that together in worship.

Planting a Forest for Advent and Christmas

Instead of erecting our large Christmas tree this season, we are "planting" a **forest of small Christmas trees in the front of our Sanctuary**. If you can help by providing one or more small (anything from 3-4ft to table-top size) trees, please contact the church office (517-423-2523) or [email Pastor Mark](#).

Christmas Eve . . .

. . . is hoped to be a "lessons and carols" style service with readings from the Bible's birth story of Jesus and **lots of music**. Since it's not safe to have a lot of singing, especially in big groups, our choir is on holiday this year. So, pick your favorite, tune it up, and **bring your music** to Christmas eve.