



Sermon Excerpts:

“End of the Year 2021 Reflections”

December 26, 2021

Frederick Buechner writes: It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.”

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.”- Howard Thurman

2 Samuel 21:1 “During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so, David sought the face of the LORD.”

1 Kings 18:1 “After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.”

So now what does ministry look like in this changing world?

What kind of strength, wisdom, character, and discernment do we need to lead well?

How do we clarify what should never change and at the same time prepare to let go of many things that are dear to us?

What does it mean to be adaptive leaders who are able to go into uncharted territory when everybody has been thrust into it at the same time?

How can we who feel the burden of leading in this unprecedented, changing world be formed for the call that we have been given?

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your body, and strength to your bones. Honor the LORD with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase...”

In one generation, the place of Christianity within culture dramatically shifted as we experienced what theologians and sociologists of religion call the “death of Christendom.” Christendom isn’t Christian faith. Christendom is the culture that supports Christian faith, giving Christianity privilege, priority, and place in our society.”